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Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinians, Israelis Sign Document on Water Rights

TA0206121893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Jun 93 p A3

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpts] The water rights of the residents of the territories will be discussed within the framework of the bilateral talks. This is stipulated in a joint document signed by the Palestinians and Israel. The understanding between the two parties was reached after quiet, direct negotiations between Israeli representatives and Palestinian delegates to the working group on refugees in Oslo two weeks ago.

The contacts were launched after the parties had failed to reach an agreement on a joint statement in earlier negotiations in Geneva by the working group on water issues. The Palestinians subsequently suspended any cooperation on water issues until the next round of talks.

The agreement signed in Oslo paved the way for an impending visit to Israel and the territories by the U.S. representative to the talks (the "chairman"), to identify problems involving water issues and to plan steps to improve the water economy in Israel, Jordan, and the territories.

This understanding became possible after the issue of water rights was incorporated into the bilateral talks' agenda during the latest round of talks in Washington.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said that in the framework of the water talks, Israel will try to persuade the sides that the water shortage in the region can be resolved by constructing water desalination plants at the relatively low cost of several hundred million dollars, since the cost of desalinizing one cubic meter of salt water costs 65 cents, as opposed to 35 cents to produce 1 cubic meter of potable water. Japan has begun construction of a water desalination plant in Jordan, and the EC has committed itself to building a similar plant in Dayr al-Balah in the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

Deputy Minister Beilin also reported significant progress in the talks on economic development, mainly in the field of U.S. ($14 million) and EC contributions (an additional $6 million) to projects in the territories. Italy has allocated $2.5 million for a feasibility study for the Dead Sea-Red Sea project. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Libyan Pilgrimage Reveals Arab 'Confusion'

PM0306084293 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 2 Jun 93 p 1

['Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan article: "Unblessed Pilgrimage!"]

[Text] It is difficult for us to understand or accept the interpretations provided by Libyan officials to justify the 200 Libyans' "pilgrimage" to occupied Jerusalem. Among these interpretations is the Saudi Government's refusal to transport these and other people by air. This is because Saudi Arabia—and we disagree with it—cannot decide to lift the air blockade on Libya, because it did not impose it. Besides, Muslims performed their pilgrimage to Mecca for more than 14 centuries, using animals as a means of transport before planes and cars were invented.

And if there is a state that should protest against the Saudis, it is Iraq, which suffered and continues to suffer from the embargo and the destruction inflicted on it—destruction in which Saudi aircraft took part. But Iraq did not prevent its pilgrims from going to the holy places, nor did it send some of them to occupied Jerusalem to spite Saudi Arabia.

Perhaps these Libyan officials feel "bitter" toward the Arabs and are disappointed in them. And perhaps some of them [the Arabs] colluded to ensure the continuation of the air blockade imposed on Tripoli. But the Libyans' suffering as a result of this blockade is nothing compared with the suffering of the Iraqis, who are denied food and medicine, let alone air transportation, which comes last among their priorities.

Perhaps it is useful to recall that while these Libyan pilgrims visit Jerusalem and pray in its mosque, the sons of the occupied land, who live a few kilometers from the al-Aqsa Mosque, are being subjected to repression and live bullets with the intention to kill.

We fear that these "pilgrims," and some Libyan officials who blessed and supervised their luxury convoy, may have fallen victim to a big international fraud operation hatched by professional brokers who trade in anything and have not an iota of dignity, patriotism, or Arab and Islamic affiliation.

True, the Tel Aviv gate is now essential for anyone who wants to reach U.S. aid coffers and World Bank loans, but Libya's problem with Washington is not to do with money or aid. It is of a different kind and will not be solved by a visit to the occupied land even by the entire Libyan people.

Iraq has complied with all the UN resolutions, allowed the destruction of all its nuclear and chemical weapons, and opened all its ministries to the inspection teams, but Washington continues to demand more and conspire against it. And here is the PLO—under Arab pressure—participating in all the failing rounds of negotiations on unfair terms, but the U.S. Administration continues to refuse even so much as to hold a public dialogue with it.

Libyan officials are mistaken if they think that by this means they are embarrassing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia or satisfying Washington. They are embarrassing their own people and nation without any significant return. This is because some Saudis will be happier as a

result of this Libyan step, because it will encourage them to implement normalization if they speed up its steps in the future.

If the handover of two Libyan Arab citizens accused falsely of complicity in the terrorist operation harms the Libyan people's dignity and national pride, the visit to occupied Jerusalem by 200 Libyan "pilgrims" at this particular time will be more harmful to the nation as a whole, not just Libya.

It is a bad time by all standards and reveals and confirms Arab confusion.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Expresses 'Extreme Concern' About Bosnia

LD0206172093 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] has expressed extreme concern for the continued failure of the Security Council, in particular, and the international community, in general, to take effective measures to prevent the complete annihilation of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which is a member of the United Nations.

In a statement issued today by ICO Secretary General Dr. Hamid Alghabid, the organization urged the international community to deal with the situation before it is too late. It warned that the failure of the international community to stand beside the right, justice, peace, and international law in Bosnia-Herzegovina will be a catastrophe of international dimensions.

Palestinian Affairs

Envoy: No Official PLO Statement on Jerusalem Visit

LD0306100793 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0930 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Jun (JANA)—Brother Abu-'Imad, acting Palestinian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah, affirmed that the PLO has not issued any official statement on the Libyans' visit to Holy Jerusalem. In a statement to WAFA, he said that the statements made by some Palestinian leaders do not represent the PLO's point of view, but their own personal stances. Brother Abu-'Imad praised the Great Jamahiriyah's stances toward the Palestinian cause, particularly the stance of the brother leader of the revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, toward Palestine [word indistinct] and the support the Great Jamahiriyah offers in all spheres.

Commentary Condemns Visit

JN0206193093 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Commentary by the political editor]

[Text] We will never renounce our principles, and we will never let events press us and put us in a state of despair and frustration. No. Most events deal us blows, but they do not kill. O our brothers, neither this criminal step by the so-called Libyan pilgrims nor any other incident can make us renounce our principles or our firm stand. O Libyan pilgrims, as you listen to us while you are standing under the flags of the Zionists, who are occupying our land, the land of the Arabs, the land of Islam, and the land from where the prophet ascended to the throne, remember the shaykh of martyrs, 'Umar al-Mukhtar, who struggled and did not surrender or bow and who was executed while he was extolling Islam. We condemn this step, and we condemn 'Adnan Khashoggi, who has been the man of the Falashas since Ja'far Numayri. We condemn Nimrodi, the partner in every suspected bargain. We also condemn everyone who took part in the so-called Libyan pilgrims.

O brothers, we will not renounce our principles. Instead, we will get firmer, and we will not say that the Libyan pilgrims have frustrated us. Rather, we will say: Revolution, revolution, revolution, words that are much used in Libya. Libya will not depart from our pan-Arab structure. He who has chosen this pilgrimage and made our 'Id, on the pan-Arab and Palestinian levels, full of darkness, sadness, sorrow, and pain, which squeeze the minds rather than the hearts, has to learn that our faith is stronger than all temptations of infidelity. We believe in God, in our people, in our nation, and in our cause, and no options departing from the nation's interests can affect or weaken our cause. God is with us, and victory is imminent. Let us move together on the path of liberation of land and man.

[Signed] The political editor of al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio on the road to liberating land and man

Hamas Protests Egypt Jailing 60 Activists

NC0306084093 Paris AFP in English 0737 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Gaza city, Occupied Gaza Strip, June 3 (AFP)—A strike called by the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas against Egypt's jailing of Palestinians who flee the Israeli army disrupted life across the Gaza Strip on Thursday [3 June], correspondents reported.

Hamas declared a general strike to protest the detention of some 60 Palestinian activists—most of them Muslim fundamentalists—allegedly held by the Egyptian authorities.

Shops and businesses shut in what correspondents described as a partial response to the call. [passage omitted]

Negotiator Views U.S. Document, Washington Invitation

TA0206162393 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 30 May 93 pp 1, 19

[By Mahmud Abu-'Id]

[Excerpt] Following his return from Tunis two days ago, Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, stressed that the Palestinian leadership was very disappointed with the results of the ninth round. This round failed to produce results justifying participation.

Al-Khatib pointed out that this disappointment basically stems from the failure to honor the promises that preceded the ninth round's convocation, particularly those relating to the substance of the talks, deportation, and human rights. Al-Khatib said: It became apparent in the middle of the round that those promises would not be fulfilled, and there was no basis for expecting that they would be. Therefore, there was a feeling of disappointment.

Al-Khatib said that the disappointment increased when the U.S. Administration tried to circumvent its promises by presenting a new document under the pretext of defining the points of disagreement and convergence between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. In fact, however, the U.S. document omitted a number of basic issues that normally appeared in previous U.S. positions, especially in the letters of assurances and guarantees, on the basis of which the Palestinian side participated in the talks in the first place. Al-Khatib added: This U.S. behavior caused great harm to the Palestinian side.

Al-Khatib emphasized that, in principle, the Palestinian side refuses to discuss this paper because it includes retreats in the U.S. position on a number of issues, particularly a lack of reference to the "land for peace" principle. This is one of the talks' basic terms of reference, according to which the Palestinian side participated in the talks.

The negotiating delegation's member revealed that the Palestinian response to the U.S. invitation was to send a scaled-down Palestinian delegation to Washington to discuss the U.S. paper. This affirmed the Palestinian side's unwillingness to negotiate on the basis of this paper. The response affirmed a readiness to negotiate on the basis of the Israeli and Palestinian positions, as well as a readiness to discuss pending issues between the Palestinian and U.S. sides, especially the U.S. positions and the shifts and retreats that they had undergone. The Palestinian response posed specific questions to the U.S. side on a number of issues relating to the substance of the talks, in the hope that those questions and issues would form the basis of discussion between the Palestinian and U.S. sides during the upcoming meeting between them in Washington. [passage omitted]

Commentary Outlines Stand on Negotiations

JN0206104093 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Israel has once again proved in the ninth round of the negotiations that it is not to be trusted and that it is neither faithful nor sincere. During the sessions of negotiations, it has emphasized its own interpretation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as terms of reference for the peace process. Israel did not admit that it is an occupation power or that its policy in the Palestinian territories is in violation of the principles of international law and the Geneva conventions, particularly those practices dealing with settlement and the violations of Palestinian human rights.

The U.S. settlement memorandum did not take note of the many instances of Israeli deceit and intransigence. Instead, the U.S. memorandum adopted most of the Israeli stands, to the point that its draft was referred to the Israeli delegation, which amended it as it wished. Thus, the memorandum came out reflecting the Israeli stand and even using the Israeli expressions. For example, the settlement memorandum did not describe the territories as occupied and completely excluded Jerusalem from the negotiations on the interim and other stages.

Brothers, it is evident that by sponsoring its first session of negotiations, the new U.S. Administration has proceeded from the premise that it is a full partner in these negotiations and that it does not view Palestine—its people and leadership—as a full partner in these negotiations. This was reflected in its disavowal of the promises it had made to the Palestinians to convince them to participate in the negotiations, in the pledges it had taken upon itself in this respect vis-a-vis the five Arab foreign ministers, and in the promises on which the Arab and Islamic foreign ministers based their adoption of resolutions on Arab and Palestinian participation in the ninth round.

The joint Israeli-U.S. objective is to undermine the Palestinian leadership's credibility and to write off the unity of Palestinian ranks to enable Israel to unilaterally implement its autonomy scheme.

The enemy's objectives have been clear to us from the start. That's why we participated in Madrid and accepted the difficult conditions. We did so because we believe in the peace option and because the negotiations constitute an arduous arena for a political battle. Since we are masters at confrontation, we should be masters in dialogue.

With steadfastness and confrontation in the arduous battle of negotiations, we have succeeded in exposing Israel's designs of aggression one after the other. The U.S. settlement memorandum has revealed the dimensions of the U.S.-Israeli alliance in the negotiations. The

Arabs should confront this with a more united Arab stand based on an Arab alliance that will step up support for the negotiating Arab delegations.

Brothers, the PLO did well when it decided to suspend work in all the committees of the ninth round, which produced no results, and when it sent a symbolic Palestinian delegation to complete the round out of solidarity with its Arab brothers because it had committed itself to participate in this round in accordance with a unanimous Arab decision.

At its recent meeting, the Palestinian leadership assessed the results of the ninth round and decided to officially reject the U.S. settlement memorandum. It adopted the sound stand at the apropriate time. The various provisions of the U.S. memorandum represent the Israeli viewpoint, particularly on Jerusalem and the termination of the occupation. It uses the Israeli expressions and terms and conflicts with the letter of assurances and the letters of invitation the cosponsors had sent to the parties participating in the peace conference. The U.S. memorandum also is not in line with President George Bush's initiative on the peace process in the Middle East. The fact that the negotiations in this round were held according to this mentality and ended with these results puts the peace process in a critical position. Its dimensions are now obscure. However, the Palestinians who opted for peace proceeded to search within these gloomy results for a vehicle that would help them pursue defending the peace process while reaffirming that the facts on the ground have practically confirmed that peace cannot be attained if the Palestinians continue to be treated contemptuously. There will be no peace without the Palestinians, and there will be no peace without Palestine.

The rejection of the U.S. settlement memorandum has been accompanied by the initiation of a practical strategy for negotiations based on the new realities that surfaced on the eve of the ninth round and that were confirmed during it.

Brothers, the Palestinian stand was officially communicated to the cosponsors of the conference through an official memorandum that was delivered within the framework of a new Palestinian action plan as part of the practical strategy for negotiations that brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, has inaugurated with an official visit to Vienna. The central, strategic, and practical issue of negotiations is based on closing the file of the discussion of the U.S. settlement memorandum and on working to develop a framework for a joint Palestinian-Israeli declaration based on UN Security Council Resolution 242, which explicitly stipulates Israeli withdrawal from the territories that were occupied in 1967, and on the contents of the letters of assurances and invitations the cosponsors had sent to the participating parties, as well as the provisions of President Bush's initiative on the peace process.

This is a new dynamism with which the Palestinians seek to extricate the peace process from the siege imposed on it by the Israeli proposals contained in the U.S. settlement memorandum.

PNC Speaker al-Sa'ih Explains Resignation

PM0306102093 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 31 May-6 Jun 93 pp 6, 7

[Interview with Palestine National Council Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih by Faysal al-Shubul in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Shubul] You point to mistakes made by the Palestinian leadership.

[Al-Sa'ih] Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] says that he calls the Palestinian leadership to meet from time to time. I am the representative of Palestinian legitimacy and have not been invited to any meeting. So what is the Palestinian leadership? The meetings must be clear, open, and genuine.

[Al-Shubul] And to what quarter will you submit your resignation?

[Al-Sa'ih] The resignation idea has been in the cards for a long time. I thought about a way out, and there is no longer room for postponement. I now intend to submit it, not to Abu-'Ammar or anyone else, but to the Palestine National Council [PNC], which elected me. I will return the trust to it.

[Al-Shubul] When will the PNC convene?

[Al-Sa'ih] That does not depend on us, but on an Arab state that is willing to host 452 members and their relatives and companions. The number will be about 1,000 people. It is important to provide the place and atmosphere for them. I recall that Jordan's [former] prime minister (Ahmad 'Ubaydat) told me that the PNC session held in Amman in 1984 cost Jordan several million pounds just to protect the airspace and the borders with Arab states. And I recall that the PNC members living in Damascus told us of the discussion between them and President Hafiz al-Asad, who told them: "By God, had it not been for the enemies' glee, I would have put you all in prison."

[Al-Shubul] And what if the PNC rejects your resignation when it convenes?

[Al-Sa'ih] The PNC has no right to reject my resignation. It has to choose a successor, that is all.

[Al-Shubul] What guarantee would you accept to stay on as PNC speaker?

[Al-Sa'ih] Who guarantees for me the Palestinian leadership's uprightness? Who guarantees for me the Palestinian negotiating delegation's uprightness? And who guarantees for me the uprightness of the United States as a sponsor of and partner in the negotiations? The head of

the negotiating delegation calls for freezing the negotiations, while some members of the delegation urge the need to continue the negotiations. Is that not a clear contradiction? What is important is for Jerusalem to be returned to us as it was and as the capital of our Palestinian state. Any solution that does not return Jerusalem to Arab Islamic sovereignty is a betrayal.

[Al-Shubul] Bassam Abu-Sharif, President 'Arafat's adviser, said that your resignation appears tantamount to an announcement of your desire to return to Jerusalem, from which you were deported. And you were the first Palestinian to be deported from their homeland.

[Al-Sa'ih] That is naive thinking and not based on realistic foundations or on the struggle. I refused to return after my deportation. Then later Anwar al-Khatib—accompanied by a person named 'Ali al-Taziz—conveyed to me an Israel offer to return, provided I stay in my home and engage in no political activities.

[Al-Shubul] Do you not fear an unexpected response from the PLO leadership?

[Al-Sa'ih] I am not from Fatah, the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], or the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], nor am I from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. All I want is to resign from the PNC speakership. If they want to to follow another path, that is up to them.

[Al-Shubul] Will you stay to perform your official work?

[Al-Sa'ih] I will remain PNC speaker until the PNC convenes and I resign from it. I insist on that.

Algeria

Butrus-Ghali's Mission in Western Sahara Viewed

LD0306080393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Excerpts] The UN secretary general is expected today to hold talks in Algeria with Mr. Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council, and a number of Algerian officials in the government. Butrus-Ghali is expected tomorrow to head for the town of Tindouf to hold talks with the Saharan officials, headed by President Mohamed Abdelaziz. [passage omitted]

During his short visit to the region, the UN secretary general is required to bring the views of the parties to the conflict closer so that the United Nations can fulfill its promises in connection with the organization of the referendum on the specified date, i.e. before the end of the current year. The mission is difficult especially since the margin of difference between the two parties to the conflict, Morocco and the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro], is very wide. [passage omitted]

Kafi Meets With Military, Islamic Organizations

LD2905195893 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Within the framework of its meetings with partners to the dialogue, the Higher State Council [HSC], under the chairmanship of Mr. Ali Kafi, met today with the following organizations: the Mojahidin [war veterans] National Organization, the Martyrs' Sons National Organization, the Higher Islamic Council, the Imams [Mosque preachers] Organization, and the Algerian Olympic Committee.

The discussion dwelt on how the provisional period should be organized and managed. Within this framework, the aforementioned organizations made a number of proposals about how to prepare the ground for bringing about unanimity in order to get our country out of the current crisis.

The organizations also announced that they favored a meeting between all the dynamic forces of the nation, but excluding groups that have been practicing or instigating terrorism.

FIS Official on Future Moves, Ties With Saudi Arabia

NC0206190693 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 24 May 93 p 12

[Excerpts] Rabah Kebir, official spokesman for the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], now residing in Germany after his escape from prison, has described the court ruling sentencing him to a 20-year imprisonment as illegal. On Thursday [20 May], the Algerian authorities passed a series of verdicts against leaders and members of the banned FIS. Those included Kebir, who is considered one of the few leaders still capable of publishing the front's statements.

In a statement to AL-SAFIR, Kebir said: I do not recognize this ruling that is passed by unconstitutional establishments. He accused the authorities of killing policemen and blowing up the airport. He said that the prime minister "is a tool in the hands of the army generals."

In his statement, Kebir said the Front is getting ready to carry out a series of moves. But it will not reveal the nature of these moves at present because it is the Front's habit "to act first." [passage omitted]

Kebir said: "The legal elections that were held in Algeria had enabled the people's representatives to assume power. But the junta intervened with force to impose its decisions on the nation. The people were not subdued and started to resist violence with violence as their only option. I believe that the current struggle in Algeria is one between the entire people and a treacherous group that sought to subjugate the people through oppression and force. It is the people only who are carrying out the resistance against a group of generals and not the army. These generals are upholding extremist socialist ideas and are working against the nation's interests. This group is trying to involve the state's institutions in these operations, and also to involve the opposition in certain military operations, including the airport explosion, in a bid to keep the people away from the opposition."

Kebir added: I believe that "the ruling clique was involved in the bloodshed of the Algerian people whether in October 1988, during the tragic July [when top FIS leaders and hundreds of their followers were arrested and new violence broke out in Algiers], or since the coup to date. We believe that differences exist within the regime's organs, the advocates of the communist ideology. The country is now ruled by some generals, who first dominated the army and later the people. Several army officers and soldiers were tried and fired. The generals only trust the special troops, who had been trained to strike at the people. But even these troops suffer differences." [passage omitted]

Asked about the FIS plans to confront the attempts aimed at wiping it out, the Islamic spokesman said: "it is not our habit to talk about the plans before the implementation of these plans. We usually act first and then we talk. The changes in the Front's methods should in no way be interpreted as weakness. Its scope of moves is still the same as it was when the Algerian people defeated France and NATO. The Algerian people will defeat the existing regime, which is only supported by certain Arab regimes."

Kebir accused the authority's intelligence service of "carrying out several operations, foremost being the

airport explosion and the killing of certain policemen who sympathize with the FIS."

Touching on the other opposition parties which agree with the Front's principles, Kebir said: "It is not easy at present to talk about any actual coordination or cooperation. But the Front's doors were and still are open for all the forces that are harmed by this clique. These forces are trying to help the Algerian people ride out their crisis and ordeal and to restore democracy to Algeria. This was evident in the recent legislative elections which resulted in the front's sweeping victory."

Kebir declined to comment on the relations with the Islamic "Hamas" [Islamic Society Movement] led by Shaykh Mahfoud Nahnah, who is considered to be a moderate. He said: "The question is embarrassing and I cannot answer it."

About FIS relations with Sudan, Iran, and Saudi Arabia, Kebir asserted that "Saudi Arabia has never financed the Front. Accordingly, there is nothing new in this issue contrary to what is being said that Saudi Arabia had financed the Front and later halted its help. As for Sudan and Iran, our ties with the world Muslims are ones of amity and brotherhood based on religion. All reports about food aid or training courses are baseless."

The FIS spokesman concluded his talk by emphasizing that "everything is possible in Algeria. As is known, there has been a talk about a military coup against the present regime. In other words, the generals, who are more extremists, want to overthrow those who are less extremist. I believe that all these generals are extremists because they conspired against their people. I see Prime Minister Belaid Abdessalam as a tool in the hands of the junta. He wants to restore the policy of chauvinist Boumedienne at the wrong time."

Director of Agriculture Bank Branch Arrested

LD0106203793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] The director of In Salah agency of the Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development was arrested recently charged with transferring public money, estimated at 3.7 billion dinars, according to a Tamanrasset Court public prosecutor's announcement.

Among the charges levelled against the director and 10 clients [as heard] are: squandering public money, offering illegal bank loans, forging documents, and the misuse of power.

According to the regional director of the Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development, 40 people are implicated in the case into which an investigation has been opened.

Egypt

Extremists Reportedly Planned To Assassinate Mubarak

JN0306073993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] The Egyptian security organs are still pursuing an intensive campaign to arrest hardline fundamentalists with a view to ending the acts of violence in the country. In the past two days, the Egyptian police arrested scores of fundamentalists in several governorates of the Nile Delta. Other fundamentalists were arrested in the Suez Governorate after leading a demonstration by scores of people on the [first] day of 'Id al-Adha. They roamed one of the Suez city neighborhoods, raising slogans denouncing the country's regime.

Cairo AL-AHRAM said the High State Prosecution will in a few days' time conclude its interrogation of more than 850 fundamentalists accused of re-establishing the al-Jihad Organization in the country. Cairo AL-AHALI, in turn, said that Palestinians, Sudanese, Saudis, Afghans, and Pakistanis are among the suspects. AL-AHALI stressed that those apprehended were planning to assassinate President Husni Mubarak. Documents and maps containing addresses of senior state officials were found in their possession.

Responsible security sources had earlier stated that five Israeli intelligence elements in Cairo were placed under strict surveillance. This move was taken in response to confirmed information that they had a connection with some recent terrorist incidents in the country and that they cooperated with the extremists. The security sources also told AL-AHALI that three suspects are currently being interrogated for their connection with these incidents, particularly those whose perpetrators have thus far not been discovered. These are the incidents that occurred in the Wadi al-Nil coffee-shop, al-Qulali, and the city of Nasr.

It is noteworthy that al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [the Islamic Group] had denied any connection with these incidents.

U.S. Said To Hold Contacts With 'Extremists,' Hamas

NC0106190093 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 31 May 93 p 14

[Unattributed report]

[Text] A former U.S. official has affirmed that there are unofficial contacts between the U.S. State Department

and extremist groups, describing these contacts as effective and vital. He also affirmed that Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's presence in the United States is no accident but that this does not mean this country supports the extremists.

The former official, who visited Cairo recently, identified al-Jihad Group as one of the parties involved in these contacts. He noted that this was within the context of his country's efforts to obtain sufficient information on terrorism in the Islamic countries. He said that foremost among them are the countries that affirm they exercise terrorism extensively. They are: Pakistan, Iran, radical Palestinian groups (Hamas), and the Muslim Brotherhood in Algeria.

The U.S. official, who was previously the secretary of state's envoy, said the United States, through other partners, is looking for a young leader other than Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who has lost his vitality, as the U.S. official himself put it. He also revealed existing contacts between the U.S. State Department and Hamas leaders inside the occupied territories.

Mossad Reportedly Implicated in al-Azbakiyah Explosion

NC3106091193 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 25 May 93 pp 1, 11

[Excerpts] Cairo—Acting on a tip, Egyptian security authorities investigating the al-Azbakiyah explosion have turned their attention from the quarters they usually accuse of committing the current acts of violence, and instead have turned their attention in the direction of the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad. [passage omitted]

Informed sources have disclosed to AL-SAFIR that a security report recently issued by the Egyptian Interior Ministry recommends that the Mossad be listed as a suspect, especially following information that three foreign agents participated with Egyptians in planning the al-Azbakiyah incident.

The sources said the Egyptian authorities have begun thinking in this direction, after receiving a tip from a Western intelligence agency that some Europeans, who work for the Mossad, have obtained entry visas to Egypt.

The sources added that the Western intelligence agency provided Egypt with the names of some of these agents. The Egyptian authorities later confirmed that two of these agents entered Egypt through Cairo airport on 4 May. Security men at the airport have confirmed that these two men have not left the country. Their names have been put on the stop list. [passage omitted]

Suspected Militants Arrested for Cairo Bombings

NC0206135993 Paris AFP in English 1321 GMT 2 June 93

[Text] Cairo, June 2 (AFP)—Forty-five suspected Muslim militants have been arrested in connection with bomb attacks in Cairo which killed seven people, police said Wednesday [2 June].

The arrests were carried out overnight in Cairo and the Nile Delta province to the north. Police said they seized arms and anti-government tracts.

In two explosions on May 21 and 27, which the authorities blamed on Muslim militants, a total of seven people were killed and 25 wounded. The casualties were all civilians, apart from three wounded policemen.

Between 1,500 and 2,000 suspected Muslim militants are being held in jail, according to official estimates. Unofficial sources put the number at between 3,000 and 5,000.

Deadline for Death Sentence Appeals in Terrorism Case Ends

NC2905155193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1423 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 May (MENA)—The deadline for the seven people sentenced to death in the case of attacks on tourism to submit pleas for the reconsideration of their sentences expired today. A military judicial source said that some of the convicts have submitted pleas to commute their sentences. He noted that these pleas will be examined and the results will be communicated to them.

In a statement to MENA, the source said that confirmation of these sentences by the responsible authorities was made on 8 May, and the convicts were informed of this in prison on 13 May. The law grants them 15 days to submit pleas for reconsideration of their verdicts. He noted that the deadline ended yesterday, Friday, which is a holiday. Therefore it was decided to extend it for one more day.

Regarding the sentences issued by the higher military court the day before yesterday in the case of the attempt to assassinate Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, the bus explosions, and terrorist attacks against the police forces, the military judicial source said that all the sentences are implemented after they are announced, except in the case of death sentences. These are sent to the responsible authorities for confirmation. He said that those who were sentenced to death will be informed as soon as their sentences are confirmed. They will be given 15 days to submit appeal their sentences.

It is worth mentioning that the day before yesterday the higher military court handed down death sentences against 6 of the 14 defendants in the case. Two defendants were sentenced to life imprisonment with hard

labor, one for 10 years with hard labor, and two were acquitted. The case was dropped against three others.

Mubarak on Economy, Iranian Foreign Minister's Gulf Tour

NC0206153993 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 26 May 93 pp 1, 3

[Report by Mahfuz al-Ansari]

[Excerpts] President Husni Mubarak has stated that the government does not intend to reduce the interest rate on bank deposits and savings. He noted that Egypt's decisions are not governed by pressure from any party, be it the IMF or others. Decisions are made in Egypt after thorough calculations that primarily take into account the interests of Egypt and its people, he added.

In remarks to the newspapers' chief editors who accompanied him on his flight to Eritrea, Mubarak said: I am eager to find out where the people's interests are before making any decision. The people have responded to financial reforms, brought their savings into the country, and deposited them in our banks, something that has served as a source of support for the Egyptian economy. The president added that Egypt had not acted hastily in any decision and that the privatization of public sector companies sought primarily to serve national interests. He added: We have already started to privatize some tourist facilities and hotels, but the industrial institutions are a different situation. In our privatization policy, we prefer to offer these companies' shares to the public to own, he added.

The president noted that the talks with the IMF delegation are proceeding normally and are expected to conclude within a few days. The president added: I don't have to make a decision that is imposed on us by any party and the government will not take measures that could scare the savings away, as this could lead to a drop in the Egyptian pound's value against the dollar and a rise in the interest rate. This will ultimately scare savings away, he added. [passage omitted]

The president was asked about the connection between his Gulf tour and [Iranian Foreign Minister] Velayati's visit to the Gulf, which immediately followed the president's visit. The president said: The brother leaders in the Gulf have told me the Iranian foreign minister wanted to visit them and that the visit would follow my tour. Very frankly, I was pleased by this news, because it means that the Iranians have noticed the success of my visit and realized Egypt's significance and its close relations with the brothers in the Gulf. As I have always said, we are not against Iran, but I am against its intervention in others' affairs. The strange thing is that they used to say that they wanted to reconcile and establish normal relations with Egypt, only to change their mind soon after.

On his efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere, the president said: I am eager to clear the Arab atmosphere and have already begun endeavors in this regard. I am certain that nobody but Egypt could undertake this difficult task. I am determined to continue these endeavors although I am aware of the difficulties involved and the existing sensitivities. [passage omitted]

Sudan Seen Seeking Confrontation Over Hala'ib

NC0306100093 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 30 May 93 p 1

[Editorial: "Khartoum Military Continues Provocation"]

[Text] It is quite certain that the Khartoum regime wants to clash with Egypt. This regime, which rules against the will of the people, wants to blame all its problems on the relationship with Egypt and wants to create a lasting estrangement between the brothers in Egypt and Sudan.

In a sudden move, the Khartoum military and rulers asked the Security Council to intervene to fulfill their dreams, that is, to expel Egypt from Hala'ib, this wholly Egyptian territory that we entrusted to the brothers in Sudan. But in this Egyptian trust, they have seen carelessness by Egypt or Egypt relinquishing the right to retrieve it. None of this negates Egypt's legitimate right to Hala'ib.

The odd thing is that Sudan's military have submitted a document to the Security Council claiming that the Egyptian practices pose a threat to the region's security. Who is threatening the region's security? Is it the party trying to impose its sovereignty on a territory it does not own or the one restoring its sovereignty and legitimate right to it?

The alliance between the Khartoum military and the Hasan al- Turabi front is quite astonishing. While Egypt stresses, through its president, that Egyptian weapons will not be used against the Sudanese brother, we find the Khartoum rulers escalating the situation and resorting to the international organization, when there is a joint Egyptian-Sudanese committee that meets periodically. The Hala'ib issue always tops the agenda.

Responding to several factors and mediation, we declared a halt to the publication of reports on the Hala'ib crisis. We have abided by this. But, as usual, the blow came from the Khartoum military—when they went to the Security Council. Khartoum is thus destroying every card and burning all the bridges.

One thing remains to say to them: Hala'ib is as Egyptian now as it was when time began. It will remain forever Egyptian.

Sudan's Note to UN Security Council Criticized

NC2905145293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1342 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 May (MENA)—The Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I expresses its regret for the

Sudanese regime's behavior toward Egypt. The paper says that the Sudanese regime has no other interest except to raise a fuss about Egypt and its Arab and international role, thinking that in this way it can harm it.

In today's commentary, the paper adds that the Sudanese regime's latest game was the note Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih sent to the president of the UN Security Council, enumerating what he called Egyptian violations in the Hala'ib region. The paper points out that the Sudanese note was mainly designed to raise a fuss about Egypt without considering Egypt's international position which no such feeble notes can affect. It is sufficient to note that the president of the UN Security Council has refused until now to circulate the Sudanese note and not even to enter it as an official document until he is certain about its contents.

The paper praises Egypt's efforts in trying to advise the Sudanese regime, referring to President Husni Mubarak's assertion that Egypt cares for the Sudanese people. The ruling regime tries to raise the Hala'ib issue whenever it faces an economic or political crises, such as the one it is facing now. The paper affirms in this regard that Hala'ib has been and will remain Egyptian.

The paper concludes by saying that the Sudanese regime will one day wake up from this illusion.

GCC Said Looking to Iran, Not Cairo, Damascus

NC0306085093 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 26 May 93 p 2

[Article by Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad: "Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Countermove"]

[Text] When the U.S. magazine TIME asked Iranian President ['Ali Akbar] Hashemi-Rafsanjani about Egyptian and Algerian accusations that he interferes in their internal affairs, he replied: "I believe that the Muslim people in Algeria and Egypt do not love their governments and oppose them. This does not necessarily mean that those people adopt our ideas. We must say that our relations with the two countries are not good. The Algerian and Egyptian Governments are telling lies to escape from their own domestic problems. No one can provide any proof that Iran has interfered in their affairs. Furthermore, we do not have a single soldier in Sudan."

It is not strange for Hashemi-Rafsanjani to make these statements. What is strange is that the man who made the statements is acceptable and agreeable to the Gulf countries that President Mubarak visited a few days before these statements were made.

Preparations are being made for [Saudi] King Fahd's visit to Tehran. This comes shortly after Mubarak visited Riyadh. Prior to King Fahd's visit, Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal will visit Iran to emphasize—in the words of the Iranian officials—the current positive development of Saudi-Iranian relations and their wish to cooperate and coordinate positions on issues of mutual concern, notably "providing humanitarian aid to Bosnia-Herzegovina's Muslims and increasing the number of Iranian pilgrims to Mecca." However, the issue that will occupy most of the Saudi-Iranian discussions will be "Gulf security." Beyond a doubt, the joint Iranian-Saudi perspective on "security" is the opposite of the perspective that President Mubarak, during his Gulf tour, tried to persuade the Saudis to accept.

The fact is that Saudi Arabia by these actions has exemplified the intention of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries—all of them—not to accept President Mubarak's initiatives to revive the Damascus Declaration or even to search for a new formula giving Egypt and Syria a prominent role in guaranteeing "the Gulf's strategic security" and including the proviso that one factor of this security is propping up Egypt's and Syria's "economic security." The Damascus Declaration faltered because the GCC states decided to found their "strategic security" on direct alliances and agreements with Washington and other Western capitals, not through Arab capitals like Cairo and Damascus. The Damascus Declaration is based on a logic that says Iran is the chief threat, particularly after Iraq—following Saddam's invasion of Kuwait and his subsequent defeat—stopped being an allied country. Events, however, have proven that the GCC countries do not wish to build their security on the basis of a confrontation with Iran. On the contrary, they want to base their security on cooperation with it even if this requires that they distance themselves from Egypt and Syria.

It is clear that Hashemi-Rafsanjani's recent move supports this thesis. In his first interview with a U.S. publication since coming to power, he sought to convince the new U.S. Administration that Iran can show a "moderate" face and is not a state that supports terrorism, as the United States accuses it of doing. He wants to say that Washington, not Tehran, is responsible for the deterioration of relations between the two countries, that Iran is waiting for Clinton's administration to rectify this situation inherited from the former administration, and that he is making an offer to Clinton in this connection through his TIME interview.

There is nothing wrong in Cairo's desire to seek assistance from other regional countries in bolstering its own security. Nevertheless, this quest cannot succeed if Cairo adopts the position that the other countries must bear the chief burden in this endeavor, particularly the financial burden, and if it offers its cooperation with the Gulf countries as an alternative to their cooperating with their own neighbors. The Gulf countries do not want to appear as belonging to an Egyptian bloc against Iran, regardless of whatever threat Iran represents and any unresolved and sensitive problems they have with it. This fact is now clear. Egypt's duty is to rely primarily on itself. As to the problems caused by terrorism, they have domestic causes in the final analysis and will not disappear as long as we think we can solve them by making efforts abroad.

Ugandan President Arrives for Talks With Mubarak

NC2805210993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2058 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 May (MENA)—Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni arrived in Cairo tonight on a one-day visit to Egypt.

The Ugandan president will hold talks with President Husni Mubarak on current international and African issues in addition to bilateral relations and means of developing them.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa received him at the airport.

Meets With Mubarak

NC2905130493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1156 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak's talks with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni today dealt with several important African issues to be discussed at the African summit in Cairo at the end of June.

In the two and a half hours of talks, the two presidents also discussed international issues and their repercussions on the African continent and problems in some African countries and ways to deal with them.

Presidents Mubarak and Museveni focused on bilateral relations and on means to develop them for the good of the countries.

The presidents welcomed Eritrea's independence and its joining the OAU. Agreement on Eritrea joining the OAU will be discussed at the next African summit in Cairo.

Ends Visit, Departs

NC2905132193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1236 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 May (MENA)—Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni left Cairo for home this afternoon after a one-day visit. President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi were at the airport to see him off.

During his visit, the Ugandan president held talks with President Mubarak over a working lunch after which the president accompanied him to the airport. The Ugandan president arrived in Cairo from Amsterdam early this morning.

Libya

JANA Editor Criticizes Saudi Regime for Blocking Hajj

LD0206225193 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] JANA's arab affairs editor commented on the Saudi Government's allegations by saying:

We are not surprised that, under the pretext of the unjust resolution 748, the Saudi Government has resorted to futile justifications of its shameful position before Arab and Islamic peoples after it was established that it had refused to receive Libyan Arab pilgrims on board a Libyan Arab Airways aircraft—they were allowed to cross Sudanese airspace—who wanted to perform hajj in Mecca and Medina, even though the Libyan civil aviation authorities had submitted an official request to their Saudi counterparts asking for permission to land those planes 72 hours before they were due to arrive at Jeddah. Therefore, turning down the request for landing permission was the decision of the Saudi authorities not of the UN Security Council, as the former claimed.

Resolution 748, issued by Christian countries, urged that humanitarian and religious cases be exempted from the air embargo. We are not surprised. The Saudi regime has accustomed us to such contradictory positions. On the one hand, it claims that its responsibility is to receive pilgrims from any Islamic country on arrival in Saudi territory. On the other hand, it refuses to receive Libyan aircraft carrying the pilgrims. The Saudi Government, while thrusting the holy sites into international relations and their complexities, contradicts a statement made by one of its officials to REUTER, on 29 May 1993, who said: Duty requires separating hajj from politics.

The true nature of the claim reiterated by the Saudi leadership to the effect that it serves the two holy places and that it attends to their affairs is exposed by the fact that it refuses to consider Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Mosque as holy places and that it incites Muslims not to perform prayers there. Although those places are under occupation, like Mecca and Medina, that should not prevent Mulims from traveling to them, as an honorable hadith proclaims: Only three mosques are to be traveled to; Al-Haram mosque, my mosque here [in Medina], and Al-Aqsa mosque.

The record of the Saudi regime and its un-Arab and un-Islamic practices are too many to be numerated. It has conspired against Arab unity, obstructed the march of the joint Arab action, worked toward stirring up sedition among Muslims, contributed to the fanning up of secterianism between them, pushing them apart, empolyed the oil resources of the people of the Arabian peninsula to back up foreign schemes to control the resources of the Arab nation, and has worked through direct and indirect preasure toward the weakening of the Palestinian revolution. There he was, King Fahd,

declaring before the heads of Islamic pilgrimage missions that his country backs the efforts aimed at ending the state of war between the Arabs and Israel.

The allegations of the Saudi authorities have reached a level at which they have started to create baseless lies and claims, attempting to exploit the noble book of God, the Ka'ba, the direction of all Muslims, and the hajj precept to offend the most prominent leaders of the Muslims and the Arab Libyan Muslim people who have adopted the holy Koran as their shari'ah, legislated laws applying the Islamic shari'ah, and mobilized all their reasources in the service of Islam and the Muslims. The insistance of the Libyan pilgrims on reaching Mecca and Medina is nothing but an expression of their firm commitment to performing one of the Islamic true religion's pillars. The creation of lies and fabrications by Saudi Arabia is to cover up the crime of preventing the Libyan pilgrims from performing the hajj precept, and neither the leadership of the great Fatih revolution nor the official quarters in the Great Jamahiriyah have anything to do with what those citizens have done.

That Saudi regime is trying to base its fabrications on statements attributed to Israeli officials, while ignoring what the Libyan pilgrims have declared in the courtyard of the blessed al-Aqsa mosque and their call to all Muslims to liberate Jerusalem, the capital of the Palestinian democratic state, and the return of four million Palestinians to their homeland and their homes. This fact has prompted the director of Islamic waqf in Jerusalem to stress that the statement of the Libyan pilgrims reflects the Muslims' sentiments everywhere, emphasizing that the Islamic rights in the city of Jerusalem will not be wasted for nothing. The statement constitutes a reply to all those who are trying to exploit the visit of the pilgrims to holy Jerusalem.

And furthermore, this is a sample of the practices of the Saudi regime, which is attempting to use Islam as a screen to cover the realization of its objectives and to pass on its schemes. It has been customary for it to create lies and fabrications, launching feverish campaigns to silence the voices of the vital powers that have began to emanate from Najd, al-Hijaz, and al-Ahsa', exposing the regime's oppressive practices, and demanding the application of the God's law and the respect of human rights.

Muslims also demand the neutrality of the sacred places and placing them under an independent Islamic administration that will ensure the freedom of reaching them easily and effortlessly.

These are some of the facts and there are many others that the masses of our Arab and Islamic nation are aware of in terms of unethical practices that we rise above going into them.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful, put what plea have they, that God should not punish them, when they keep out men from the sacred mosque and they are not its guardians. No men can be its guardians; but most of them do not understand. [Koranic verse] God, the great, has spoken the truth.

Mauritania

Parliament Pardons 1990 Coup Plotters

AB3005153093 London BBC World Service in English 0545 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Mauritanian radio says the country's Parliament has pardoned members of the security forces and ordinary citizens who committed crimes in connection with unrest in the Armed Forces between January 1989 and April 18th, 1992. The statement appears to refer to events leading up to an alleged coup plot in November 1990, which the Mauritanian authorities say was backed by neighboring Senegal. April 18th, 1992, was the date when Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya was sworn in as president following an election which was boycotted by opposition parties.

Financing Agreements Signed With EC

LD0206225493 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Our country and the EC Commission have signed two financing agreements involving a total of 25.35 million European currency units, equivalent to 3.35 billion ouguiyas. The first agreement concerns the EC contribution to the structural reform program which our country is following, and the second agreement concerns repairing Nouakchott and Laayoune hospitals and supplying them with equipment. [passage omitted]

Sudan

SPLA's Garang on Abuja Peace Talks, Factional Fighting

AB0206115093 Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] The leader of the mainstream Sudan's People's Liberation Army, SPLA, Colonel John Garang, today briefed newsmen in Accra on the current stage of the peace talks between the SPLA and the Sudanese Government. Mawuli Adjei has the details:

[Adjei] Col. John Garang is in the country to brief the government and people of Ghana on the outcome of the Abuja talks and the SPLA's position. Col. Garang said his organization has proposed a blueprint that includes proposals for a strong semiautonomous north and south Sudan with a main central authority. The two semiautonomous states would be largely sovereign, having their own constitutions and security systems. This, according to the SPLA leader, would resolve the fundamental issues of shari'ah, that is Islamic laws and secularism, the two issues which have been the main bones of contention in the Sudanese conflict over the years. He said if the SPLA proposals are accepted, the two sides will then

define the central authority: What powers should be invested in it, and the parameters for power sharing between the two states. On the split in the SPLA and whether it would not affect the negotiation process, Col. Garang replied:

[Begin recording] I am aware that media attention has been focused on the problem of factional fighting within the SPLA. The SPLA is defined as an armed movement, despite the Sudan Government. And as a faction fighting the Sudan Government, it continues to call itself the SPLA but it has in reality joined the Sudan Government, and this was confirmed by the agreement in Nairobi a few days ago [words indistinct]. Actually, the [words indistinct] the Sudan Government is like the South African situation where people have been more [word indistinct] on black violence—the Inkatha against the ANC [African National Congress] and other black groups. But as the main problem of South Africa, the media at one point focused on this. But that is not the issue. The issue is apartheid. It remains apartheid. It is the practice of the oppressor to divide the oppressed. [end recording]

[Adjei] Col. Garang was also asked if the southern Sudanese people, having gone through a lot of suffering and dislocations as a result of the war, still support his movement. The SPLA leader replied in the affirmative. On the question of the resumption of relief aid to the south, he said the SPLA is currently negotiating with the United Nations and other relief agencies to resume food and medical supplies to the people with the firm commitment that there will be no hindrance in their operations. To facilitate this, he said the movement has created six harbors in demilitarized zones in the south. He concluded that generally, the prospects for a negotiated settlement are bright.

Spokesman Urges Full Mandate for Rebel Team at Abuja

EA0306103693 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1525 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 2 Jun (SUNA)—Dr. 'Ali al-Haj Muhammad, official spokesman of the government delegation to the Abuja negotiations between the government and the rebel movement, has stressed that the peace process will be completed despite conspiracies and problems. He said Abuja-3 scheduled for June will be an extension of the recently ended sessions.

He told today's edition of Al-INQADH AL-WATANI that the peace and war issue had assumed more (?external) than (?internal) dimensions, and that Garang's (?movement) had become a problem in its own right. He said the factions calling for peace within the rebel movement had become (?targets) of the so-called [Democratic] Alliance and foreign quarters. He said two-fold orientations had been exposed in this respect. He stressed the need for the rebel delegation to the next round of Abuja talks to be fully mandated so that there would be (?no) turning back on any issue agreed upon.

He stressed the government delegation's commitment to all declared standards and principles. Dr. 'Ali al-Haj Muhammad added that Garang's movement was factionalized and not integrated as some believe. He said everything Garang was saying in this respect was a form of distortion. He said (?the government) would not [word indistinct] and would not give up an inch of territory during the negotiations, stressing the government's steadfastness in the face of the conspiracies aimed against the march toward salvation.

Referring to appeals from a number of foreign quarters for the establishment of safe havens in the south, Dr. 'Ali al-Haj Muhammad said these appeals were nonsensical because the whole of the south had become secure. He said the problem in the south was John Garang, who is obstructing relief operations, and terrorizing and looting peaceful citizens, and that they [words indistinct] UN secretary general that he was biased against Sudan, and had begun to (?take sides) in the ongoing conflict between Sudan and Egypt. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Briefs Sudanese Leaders on Latest Developments

LD3105194293 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 31 May 93

[Excerpts] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO's Executive Committee, met this morning with his brother Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council in sister Sudan. The two presidents and the Sudanese ministers performed the prayer of the blessed 'Id al-Adha at al-Khalifa mosque in Omdurman, amid a large crowd of people who chanted "God is the Greatest" and "Victory for Palestine." [passage omitted]

At the airport's VIP lounge, the brother leader President Abu-'Ammar made the following statement: [passage omitted] I am also here to brief his excellency the president and the brother leaders on the developments of the Palestinian issue, particularly after the ninth round of the negotiations that has ended and the ensuing dangerous consequences, since the Israeli mentality is still unchanged.

While the negotiations were taking place, the iron-fist policy was being stepped up, and violence was also being escalated against our children, our women, our people, and our Islamic and Christian sanctities. The Palestinian areas [as heard] are still isolated, including the city of Jerusalem, which has been completely cut off. [passage omitted]

I have to brief my brethren about this situation so that we can examine what our next steps are going to be to face up to all these serious developments in the Palestinian arena, in particular, and the Arab arena, in general.

In reply to a question about the importance of his visit to Vienna, the brother leader President Abu-'Ammar said: The visit was successful, and we raised extremely important matters with the Austrian leadership concerning Palestinian-Austrian relations, in addition to the fact that they decided to host the meetings of the technical committees that are part of the water committee that is linked to the multilateral talks. We also talked about other things with the Austrian leadership. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

'Source' Statement on Iranian Media Attacks

LD0206191293 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1605 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Jeddah, 2 Jun SPA—In denouncement of the hostile media campaign that has now been launched for a week by the Iranian media against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia because of the ban imposed by the latter on Iranian processions and demonstrations during the hajj season, a responsible source in a statement made to SPA today said: We have been totally concerned—according to the directives of the custodian of the two holy mosques—not to enter into media quarrels with Iran about this issue especially as the kingdom of Saudi Arabia—government and people—during these blessed days is carrying out its duty in serving the pilgrims, employing all its manpower and material resources in order to enable the pilgrim to perform his rites in security, ease, and, assurance.

We had hoped that the Iranian media would not resort to escalation of matters and the arousing of controversy regarding an issue on which all clerics, jurisprudents, and seekers of knowledge have said that it was a heresy that has no foundation as far as the principles of hajj are concerned—it was that some Iranians insisted on declaring their disavowal from the polytheists in noisy gatherings and unruly processions interspersed with cheers and shouting of sensational slogans harmful to the feelings of pilgrims, and the carrying of pictures and banners in a manner that contradicts the teachings of Islam.

The source added: But after the succession of provocative statements and hostile communiques by some officials in the Iranian Government, and following the publication of articles and comments and the staging of Iranian demonstrations full of repugnant utterances unacceptable by Islam, we deem it our duty, now that the processions of pilgrims are about to complete their rites in the holy places, to outline anew to the Islamic nation, and to public opinion the following facts:

First, ever since the arrival of Mr. Mohammadi Reyshahri, head of the Iranian hajj officials in the kingdom, the authorities concerned informed him through official channels that they forbid any congregations or demonstrations or processions in Holy Mecca and in the sacred shrines and in Medina during the pilgrimage season. They are also not permitted at any time.

The kingdom had affirmed its strong desire for the need to adhere to these regulations on the part of all quarters and factions so that pilgrims may enjoy comfort and tranquility during the performance of their religious ceremonies and so that they can devote themselves to prayers to God and seek his grace and forgiveness.

Mr. Mohammadi Reyshahri had been told in good time of these regulations by His Royal Highness Prince Majid Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, the governor of Mecca region, and afterward by the minister of pilgrimage and religious trusts on the evening of the sixth day of the Hajj namely, 27 May, which was the day when some of the Iranian pilgrims were planning to carry out the demonstrations.

This totally contravenes the teachings of the Islamic religion and is fully outside the rules of the hajj that had been laid down and explained by the messenger of God—may the blessings and mercy of God be upon him—during the farewell pilgrimage [of the prophet] and in all his utterances that had been followed by the wise caliph after him, and that guided all those who came to power in all Islamic state periods ever since the dawn of Islam to this day.

Second, the kingdom had previously and frequently announced its categorical rejection of processions and demonstrations by any quarter during the pilgrimage season and at all times in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It explained the basic reasons for this from Islamic and security angles. However, some Iranians have been, and still are, insistent on disturbing the atmosphere and spreading confusion and disfiguring the great image of the faith by their practices and actions that do not, with great regret, serve anything except their political plans and ideological aims, paying no attention to the feelings of the pilgrims or the strong indignation of Muslims against the aforementioned practices by some people.

Third, it is an irony for an ignorant writer of the Iranian paper KEYHAN to discredit the Islam of 1 billion Muslims by claiming that they are embracing the American Islam, while he [the writer] and those who follow his path of extremists are embracing the genuine Muhammadan Islam. He also says that whoever performs the hajj without declaring his disavowal from infidels in the manner they follow, his hajj will be null and void.

This writer also demands that Iranian foreign policy abandons diplomacy in its dealing with the Arabian states of the Gulf, and pursues a revolutionary policy, revealing thus the true intentions of the Iranian extremists and consequently undermining all positive efforts of wise Iranians who are keen on Iranian interests through their continuous attempts to soften the atmosphere between Iran and its Arab state neighbors, an effort that is welcomed by everyone.

The source went on to say "The kingdom of Saudi Arabia, stemming from its firm and well-known policy of noninterference in the internal affairs of any state, has nothing to do with the beliefs of others and the methods of their religious practices. This is in compliance with the Almighty's word in al-Ma'idah Surat:" O ye who believe, guard your own souls; if ye follow right guidance, no hurt can come to you from those who stray. The goal of you all, is to God; It is he that will show you the truth of all that ye do" [Koranic verse].

However, we in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and due to the trust with which God has honored us, to serve his house and the prophet's mosque, and in conformity with

teachings of the great Islamic message that we undertake, and out of our jealousy not to breach any Islamic rite or any pillars of the pilgrimage, or to harm the security of this peaceful country, will not allow anyone at all to carry out practices that would contravene these religious constants and security rules.

The Kingdom will welcome whoever intends to perform the pilgrimage as was ordained by God and as was shown by his messenger, and will mobilize all its resources to serve him and to ensure his satisfaction from the time of his arrival until he goes back safe and sound to his homeland.

If someone wants something else then it would not be acceptable from him, and let him do what he wants in his own country and not in al Bayt al-'Atiq [the Kaaba in Mecca] that God had purified for those who go around it [pilgrims go around the Kaaba several times], those who withdraw, those who prostrate, and those who kneel down in prayers; not in Mecca that has been blessed, glorified, and made a sanctity by God, and not during the pilgrimage season as there must be no obscenity, no wickedness, no wrangling in pilgrimage [Koranic verse].

The source concluded its statement by saying: We have received a great deal of views from Muslim scholars and Islamic jurisprudence men concerning the subject of the practices that some Iranians want to undertake in the pilgrimage season, that will be carried by our information media with pictures and sound, so that Islamic peoples may hear, and so that public opinion will be able to get to know the extent of extremist Iranian infringements on the Islamic rites and the feelings of Muslims by means of the aforementioned practices. We pray to God to guide us all on to the right path.

Official Source Denies Iranians Held Disavowal Rally

LD0306110393 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] In denial of a report broadcast by Radio Tehran this morning, that the Iranians yesterday evening held gatherings of disavowing polytheists at the headquarters of the Iranian hajj mission in the their camps in Mina, an official source has told SPA today: All that was broadcast by Radio Tehran on this matter is totally unfounded. The competent authorities did not notice the holding of any gathering for this purpose in the camps of the Iranians. Therefore, a clarification is in order.

Religious Leaders Comment on Disavowal of Infidels Rally

LD0206200993 Riyadh SPA in English 1946 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Mecca, 2 Jun (SPA)—In a bid to explain the rulings of Islam on the issues of marches and demonstrations during the hajj season in the name of "deliverance from infidels", Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Baz, the general president of Islamic research, Ifta', Propagation and Guidance, said holding demonstrations or rallies in Mecca during the hajj season to declare deliverance from infidels was a groundless heresy that could have evil consequences.

He said those who perform such practices should abandon them and the state should prevent them from doing it for it is a heresy that is unfounded in the Islamic shari'a (law) and could bring evil and harm to pilgrims.

Recalling verses from the holy Koran and sayings of the Prophet, Shaykh Bin-Baz said neither Allah's apostle nor his companions had conducted such practices. If it was a good thing to do, they would have done it before us, he added.

He confirmed that the Prophet had informed the people on the ninth year of al-Hijra that no infidel would be allowed to perform pilgrimage and no naked person would be allowed to perform circumambulation, and only belivers would be allowed into heaven.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-'Abdallah al-Shaykh, the member of the Senior Ulemas Council and member of the Permanent Commission on Propagation and Ifta', said declaring deliverance from the infidels was not one of the pillars of hajj, and anyone that claims otherwise is a liar because he would only mean to harm Muslims, which is not an aspect of hajj.

The Vice-President of the Two Holy Mosques Affairs Shaykh Salih Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Hamid confirmed that obscenity, wickedness and wrangling are strictly prohibited during the hajj season and stressed that this season should not be a field for party slogans or racial tendencies or political bargains even if these practices were cloaked under the garb of religion.

Al-Qadhdhafi's 'Lies,' 'Crazy Practices' Discussed

LD0306104193 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0615 GMT 3 Jun 93

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 3 Jun (SPA)—[passage omitted] Under the title "The Creed and This Unmarketable Trade," AL-MADINAH said: The Arab and Muslim memory remembers for al-Qadhdhafi numerous occasions during which he issued without deliberation or verification, and in blatant departure from all political and diplomatic conventions, ready-made judgments on others in view of the fact that he is fond of charging others with treason, and shouting out loose slogans about unity which he kept on repeating, producing unity scenarios, and then killing them 24 hours after their production. Among these are his famous Djerba union with sisterly Tunisia, from which he disassociated himself 24 hours after he signed it, and his unity with fraternal Morocco, which he repudiated weeks after his return to his country.

The paper added that the international memory preserves for al-Qadhdhafi files on terrorism and flagrant interference in the affairs of countries, which distanced him from other heads of state and made him an odd person out who brags about sheltering terrorists, (?continues) his empty boasts without any check, supports and finances many pockets of rebellion, and squanders the Libyan people's money on childish operations to settle personal accounts between himself and international leaderships.

It pointed out that in the show of the 200 Libyan pilgrims whom he sent from among his intelligence men to occupied Jerusalem, he suddenly instructed them to give statements in which they said they demand the destruction of the State of Israel, but this empty statement will not deceive the leaderships of the Palestinian people. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, the deportees' spokesman, ridiculed him and the visit, and assessed the step by saying that it was a winning card, i.e. a recognition of Israel's occupation of Jerusalem, which he presented to Israel, which will definitely exploit it at the negotiating table. [passage omitted]

It pointed out that there is nothing to do except wait for a stupidity of a new kind, or another delirium with a new tone, in the forthcoming days which could be a visit to Israel by al-Qadhdhafi, another war against Chad, a hurried union attempt, or fabrication of lies against some country. In conclusion, the newspaper prayed to God by saying: God be kind and tolerant with sisterly Libya and its patient people. God help us to be patient with the stupidities of the ignorant, and make us among the worshippers of the merciful who "when the ignorant address them, they say, 'Peace'" and "if they pass by futility, they pass it by with honor." [Koranic verses]

AL-YAWM newspaper denounced Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's lies and behavior since he seized authority in Libya, pointing out that we do not find his new fabricated lies which he heaped on the Kingdom strange because these lies have become one of his odd ways of behavior not only with the Kingdom, but also with the rest of the world. The newspaper said that the Libyan leader's aggressive behavior against the Kingdom is another addition to his terrorist behavior with many countries of the world, and these were responsible for encouraging the will of the international community to take a serious and firm stance toward his crazy practices which led to the isolation of his country from the world.

AL-YAWM's editorial pointed out that those awkward practices which the Libyan leader is practicing places before us a strange case of hypomania which would not make us wonder about the fabricated lies he heaps on us and on the rest of the countries of the world because in actual fact they reflect an unstable and immature mentality which does not comprehend what it says or does. [passage omitted]

Interviews in 1984 With Armed Libyans Aired

LD0306074793

[Editorial Report] Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic at 1943 GMT on 2 June carries a 24-minute report by an unidentified correspondent on a series of interviews, recorded in 1984, with nine Libyan nationals, who were in possession of weapons upon arrival in Saudi Arabia for the 1984 pilgrimage, by an unidentified Riyadh Airport official.

The correspondent says: "Now we present to you in picture and in sound, and for the first time, confessions of enlisted Libyans who came to the Kingdom in the 1404 AH [1984] hajj season carrying quantities of weapons and ammunition."

He explains that a few days before the Muslims ascent to witness the biggest day of the pilgrimage, some 200 Libyans arrived in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on two planes under the pretext of performing the pilgrimage and were warmly welcomed.

He continues: "While finalizing the procedures of arrival and customary search, it transpired that those Libyans were concealing their intentions. Big quantities of weapons and ammunition were found in their possession, which no one whose purpose was to perform the hajj in this country—which is a sanctuary and in which God banned the uprooting of its trees and the hunting of its birds, let alone attacking Muslims in it—would carry."

The correspondent goes on to say: "The truth about these Libyan enlisted men who are carrying weapons becomes clear to all in the confessions and statements they made on arrival on the soil of the Kingdom and the uncovering of the truth about them. They confirmed that Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi had sent them to the holy land and ordered them to pursue what they called stray dogs in the holy places, in a flagrant and open challenge to what came in God's book: And proclaim among men the pilgrimage and they shall come unto thee on foot and upon every lean beast, they shall come from every deep ravine, that they may witness things profitable them and mention God's name on days well-known. God has spoken the truth."

The recorded interviews with nine of the armed Libyans are then aired. The first Libyan is named Mustapha Salim, a civilian and military civil servant. The airport official asks him what is in his handbag and asks him to open it. Salim produces a pistol from the bag. He is asked whether it is loaded and he replies that it contains 6 rounds. He is asked why he came to Saudi Arabia. He answers: for the pilgrimage. He is then asked why he is carrying a gun, and he says that it is a personal weapon.

The second Libyan is named Salih [name indistinct], a security man. He is asked the same questions. He says he carries the weapon for self-protection. He wants to protect himself from the enemies of Islam: the Libyan "stray dogs."

The third Libyan is Misbah Mabruk. He says that the gun was given to him by Salih Muhammad Bilaziz, who is with the group of Libyans pilgrims. He is carrying the weapon to defend the principles of the Libyan revolution, the principles of Islam, and the principles of justice. He came to pursue the enemies of the Libyan revolution and the enemies of Islam. The commander of his group is Miftah Ahmad 'Abd-al-Karim. He does not know how many squads were among the pilgrims.

The fourth Libyan is Abu-Zayd 'Ali al-Hamadi, a security man. His commander is Salih Al-Ward, who did not accompany the group. He is one of six in his group. His commander is Salih al-Wa'ar. He is carrying the gun to protect Libyans and himself from the "stray dogs."

The fifth Libyan is a clerk from Tripoli. He says his pistol is for self-protection. The sixth Libyan produces a gun wrapped in a white paper. The seventh Libyan says he is alone. He came after the "stray dogs."

The eighth is a teacher called S'ad 'Abd-al-Hakim Rajab [name indistinct]. He explains that he came first of all to perform the pilgrimage, and second to hunt the enemies of the Libyan revolution, the Arab nation, the supporters of colonialism, the "stray dogs" and the enemies of Islam.

The ninth Libyan says his gun is a personal weapon. The weapon is for the liquidation of his enemies, the enemies of the Libyan revolution in Saudi Arabia. His order is to liquidate the enemies anywhere he finds them.

The correspondent then concludes: "This, dear brothers, is a quick insight to what the Libyan president Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi does to his Muslim brothers who are pilgrims to God's sanctuary. Are we to be surprised that a person whose characteristics, actions, objectives are these, would commit a provocative action to the feelings of Muslims or to lie before God, accusing the Kingdom of preventing the Libyan pilgrims from going to Mecca, forcing him to divert them to Jerusalem? May God protect Islam and the Muslims from the evils of those who harbour ill designs and the hateful."

Yemen

President on Parties' Participation in Government

PM0206161593 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 29-30 May 93 p 4

[Interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan in Sanaa; date not given]

[Text] ['Atwan] Your Excellency, Mr. President, when will the government be formed, and how will the portfolios be distributed?

[Salih] It will be formed soon from the three coalition parties: The General People's Congress [GPC], the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], and the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG]. The portfolios will be distributed on the basis of each bloc's seats in the parliament; that is, in the following order: the GPC, the YSP, and then the YRG.

['Atwan] Did the prime minister designate talk with you about members of his government?

[Salih] He talked with me today about the ratios.

['Atwan] And how many portfolios are in the new government?

[Salih] Around about 28 ministerial portfolios.

['Atwan] Has the YSP been given major ministries like the Foreign, Interior, Defense, and Information Ministries?

[Salih] The YSP will be given some of the major portfolios, but the GPC will retain most of them, on the grounds that it is the majority party.

['Atwan] And are the Interior and Foreign Ministries among the GPC's portfolios?

[Salih] Yes.

['Atwan] How will the portfolios be distributed?

[Salih] According to the number of seats won by the parties to the coalition. The GPC won about 51 percent of the seats, the YSP about 25 percent, and the YRG about 23 percent.

['Atwan] How do you visualize the opposition's existence in view of the winning parties' entry into the coalition?

[Salih] The opposition will exist inside the parliament.

There were over 42 parties, but only three secured good results in the elections. There will be oppositionists inside the parliament, even from the GPC, the YSP, of the YRG. We Yemenis have the habit of loving opposition. Although they are in a coalition, have a majority, and are in power, you will see opposition inside the parliament. Opposition against whom? Against the government's policy... whether they are from the GPC, the YSP, or the YRG, they will all criticize the government. It is one of the Yemeni experiment's characteristics. Certainly there will be opposition parties which will continue and will try to assess themselves and their exercise of political action, avoiding the mistakes they made in the transitional period. The opposition parties exist and we hope they will play an important role in enriching democratic practice. And we believe that there can be no real democracy without strong, effective, and objective opposition.

['Atwan] Will this government stay until the Constitution is reformed, or will it continue after that?

[Salih] This government will be formed until constitutional reforms have been made. After the constitutional reforms a cabinet reshuffle could be conducted, and

some ministers could retain their portfolios... and the confidence in this government could be renewed if it performs well. If there are some negative aspects, a reshuffle could be conducted. The criterion is the ability to perform.

['Atwan] Will the number of portfolios be equal with regard to the YSP and the YRG?

[Salih] The YSP and the YRG are almost equal. The YSP represents 25 percent and the YRG 23 percent, but an additional one or two portfolios for the YSP is not a problem.

['Atwan] Will the government include new faces, especially as you have called for a change?

[Salih] There have to be new faces. The government will include new faces, especially from the GPC and the YRG. As for the YSP, it might keep some of the faces that were in the former government in the portfolios allocated to it in the new government.

['Atwan] It is said that the YSP has not accepted the ratio allocated to it in cabinet appointments?

[Salih] God willing, a dialogue will be conducted and the problem will end.

['Atwan] When is the cabinet's formation expected to be announced?

[Salih] If the Presidential Council holds a meeting today in the presence of the prime minister, the problem will be solved and the cabinet could be announced even tonight. However, I expect it to take some time before the brothers in the YSP are persuaded.

['Atwan] How do you expect the world to look at Yemen after the elections?

[Salih] I expect the world to look at the Yemeni experiment with admiration and respect. And the Arab people to look at our experiment with complete satisfaction, despite the media blackout. However, through our observation we notice that Arab citizens and honorable writers in the Arab press are following our experiment with respect and interest, especially the Arab press which is committed to their nation's issues and which has not compromised its positions or been influenced in favor of this or that regime. We received a number of congratulatory cables on the occasion of the the parliamentary elections' conclusion and the Republic of Yemen's third anniversary from unions, organizations, and social, political, and academic figures, and political and opposition forces from various parts of the Arab homeland. They expressed their congratulations and blessing and appreciation for our democratic experiment, hoping that it would spread in the Arab homeland.

But we Yemenis believe it is an experiment which is Yemeni in character, and we do not seek to export it. Anyone who wants to benefit from it is free to do so. With regard to the positions of the Western world, especially that of the United States and Western Europe, their media played a major role in covering the elections since the electoral process started, and in clarifying the features of the new Yemeni experiment. As for the position of the media in Eastern Europe, they still have not gotten rid of the idea of the domination of the totalitarian system concept... nor have the media in these countries—I think—been able to keep pace with the new changes in these states. Actually the media and many numerous organizations in Western Europe effectively contributed to the media coverage of, and moral support for, our Democratic experiment.

['Atwan] Brother President, the U.S. assistant secretary of state visited Yemen and delivered a message to your excellency from President Clinton. How did they view the experiment, and what message did he try to send?

[Salih] The message was clear. It contained congratulations on the success of the elections and the democratic experiment in our country and expressed great admiration of it, regarding it a shining light in the Arab homeland in general and and the Arabian Peninsula in particular. And if you see the cable which President Clinton sent today on the occasion of the Republic of Yemen's third anniversary, you will find in it more than one meaning [satajidun fiha akthar min ma'na].

['Atwan] Have you received congratulatory cables from all Arab countries?

[Salih] We received congratulatory cables from all the Arab states except Saudi Arabia and Kuwait (Saudi Arabia is the only state which does not congratulate us on national day or elections).

['Atwan] Is that since the Gulf war or before?

[Salih] Since the Gulf war.

['Atwan] There have been statements about the possibility of achieving reconciliation and developing relations between Yemen and the Gulf states. What does these states' reluctance to congratulate you mean, when there is much talk about reconciliation and opening a new page?

[Salih] It is clear that the Gulf states all have no problem with Yemen, nor has Yemen any problem with them. Even with regard to Saudi Arabia, Yemen has no problem with it. The brothers in Saudi Arabia link relations, their normalization, and exchanging interests between the two countries with the border question. With regard to this question, we formed committees from the two countries to hold discussions on ways to resolve this issue in the framework of the principle of fairness for everyone; that is, fairness to all parties' historic and legal rights. We do not link relations and their normalization between the two countries with the border issue. That is one thing, and relations are another. That is, the border problem is one thing and the ties of mutual interests, good-neighborliness, and joint Arab action are another. And without doubt cordial relations will be reflected in the solution of all problems, including border problems.

['Atwan] The press said recently that Saudi Arabia raised the border question at the Arab League and submitted a protest at Yemen's demarcation of its border and longitudes and latitudes [as published].

[Salih] True, that has happened. But the fact is that it is the Yemeni people who have claims to their territory in Saudi Arabia, because part of their territory is under the control of the brothers in Saudi Arabia. And the Saudis are still continuing the naturalization and settlement process in the Yemeni areas.

['Atwan] There are reports about a meeting after the 'Id al-Adha holiday for the Yemeni-Saudi experts committee concerned with the border.

[Salih] There will be communications after 'Id to bring about a meeting of that committee.

['Atwan] It is said that Saudi Arabia protests the presence of some faces in the cabinet.

[Salih] That is untrue. Perhaps that might possibly have been said or might have happened 15 years ago. But now we do not accept that anyone should interfere in our internal affairs or protest or object to a personality in the state or government. These are Yemeni issues which concern the Yemenis themselves.

['Atwan] Brother President, after Mubarak's Gulf tour he contacted you and joint committees began to move between the two countries. Is there a new development in relations between the two countries?

[Salih] Actually our relationship with Egypt is historic, even if it is sometimes blemished by some coolness or weakness, especially after the Gulf crisis. But we have no problem with the brothers in Egypt. And the brothers in Egypt have begun to understand our position. And as is known, they are seeking to reunite the Arab family and solve the problems preventing the restoration of Arab solidarity—which is good and we appreciate that. And the historic and deep-rooted brotherly relations between the two peoples in Yemen and Egypt will remain firmly established, even if relations between the two countries' governments are sometimes blemished by some coolness, because that is temporary and soon disappears. Egyptian-Yemeni relations are firmly established and baptized by the martyrs' blood.

['Atwan] Brother President: There was recently an escalation in the tone against Iraq. It coincided with Arab measures which seem harsh with regard to Iraq. What is your position in the Republic of Yemen on that?

[Salih] We have said on more than one occasion that there is no justification for continuing the escalation and the embargo against Iraq. We explained our position in the past, saying that the new international order uses double standards. Best proof of this is what is happening in Bosnia-Herzegovina, namely the racist actions and annihilation of Muslims there. The Arab and Islamic nation's weak position is the result of the bad situation it has reached. Had it not been for this bad situation, the occupation of lands and violations of honor and human rights would not have taken place in Bosnia-Herzegovina while the world is watching.

We in Yemen completely condemn these inhumane practices and actions. With regard to Iraq, the questions remains: What is the justification for continuing the embargo against the Iraqi people, when Iraq continues to comply with the international resolutions?

['Atwan] Brother President, Yemeni wisdom managed to produce impartial elections. How can this Yemeni wisdom offer a formula for Arab reconciliation, especially as an appeal was made two days ago by the Arab League and King Hassan II of Morocco to clear the atmosphere? What do you believe is the ideal way to clear the Arab air?

[Salih] We noticed that whenever we call for any Arab reconciliation or for reuniting the Arab nation we tend to encounter severe sensitivities from some people, which is why we now avoid getting involved in that, in order not to widen the Arab rift. We hope that the states prepared for this call—like Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, in addition to the Arab League—will take the initiative. These states can secure a favorable atmosphere for restoring Arab solidarity. We have no sensitivities toward others. However, we know that some Arab states will use the veto if Yemen seeks to mend the rift and restore Arab solidarity, because they are trying to belittle Yemen's standing and political, social, and international status by virtue of the poverty and fragmentation we inherited. We are interested in rebuilding the Yemeni home and restoring unity and in choosing the principle of political, party pluralism and the democratic line. We are preoccupied by these tasks now in order to reorganize the Yemeni home. And one day Yemen will, God willing, have its influential role and presence in the Arab community, although our role and presence is already in existence. But they seem to base the importance and international or regional influence on money rather than geographical importance or the state's political, cultural, and social influence.

['Atwan] What about Morocco's efforts to restore Arab solidarity? Do you support them?

[Salih] We supported and support any move made by King Hassan.

['Atwan] It is noted that there is fear of so-called fundamentalists in the Arab homeland. Do you share some people's fear, and where does the defect lie?

[Salih] I long ago adopted a view on this issue. I favor giving Islamists the opportunity to rule and live through the experience of government, because we in the homeland went through the pan-Arab experiment and the socialist experiment, so why do we not accept and try the Islamic experiment. It is a new experiment which we should have accepted and seen where it would lead. In Yemen we have the Islamic movement represented in the YRG, although there are no minorities, nationalities, or different religions among the Yemeni people. All the Yemeni people are

Muslim, sensible, and understanding. The Islamic movement participated in the elections and obtained good seats. And it will now participate in the government, and we have no problem. There should be no alarm at the Islamic movement. If we had dealings with nationalists and leftists at one point, how come we do not have dealings with Islamists, letting them rule, like the Marxists and nationalists did, and let us try that...without any alarm, as long as we believe in the democratic option. We must accept the Islamists' right to govern on the basis of adherence to the principle of the peaceful rotation of power, in the sense that no force can reach power and then cling to it and turn it into a totalitarian regime...that is illogical and unacceptable.

As for acts of violence, we believe that they can be tackled by democracy. If there is democracy, acts of violence will disappear. If everyone is given his rights—the right of expression, participation, and existence—no force will practise acts of violence. Violence breeds nothing but further violence.

['Atwan] Brother President, talking of the Islamic movement, it was a happy surprise for two women to win in the recent election. But do we expect a female minister in the new Yemeni government?

[Salih] We are not against the principle. and perhaps there will be one female minister or more in the present government or in the future.

['Atwan] We had hoped that GPC female candidates would reach parliament.

[Salih] We tried to nominate numerous women on the GPC's list for membership of the parliament, and we tried to support them, but regrettably, none of them was destined to win. We believe in the principle of women's participation in all spheres of life. In our country the Constitution guarantees all women's rights, including the right to run for election and to vote. Two women won in the parliamentary elections—which we consider a step forward and a good step. There are well-established democratic states which allowed women to vote or run for the elections only a few years ago. Some 700,000 women registered themselves on the voters list throughout the republic's governorates—which is an achievement for women.

['Atwan] A final question about unity: Can we say that after unity combined with democracy the country's unity is now safe?

[Salih] It is safe and has been safe since its launch, as the Yemeni people have been united since time immemorial and before the establishment of the Republic of Yemen. The partition was in the form of the regime only. The Yemeni people have their own characteristics and experiences. They are aware of and understand these characteristics and all their rich experiments. And they are the safety valve for unity.

['Atwan] What about the Armed Forces? The delay in the merger arouses much concern.

[Salih] There is no worry about that question, as the completion of the merger process requires some time, and we will work to carry out this task in the next stage. We inherited a legacy burdened with backwardness. It requires of us some time and patience. Had it not been for patience, democracy would not have been achieved. And had it not been for patience, the elections would not have succeeded. And had it not been for patience, we would not achieved what we have achieved, when others expected us as a people to engage in house-to-house fighting before reaching the elections. But, praise be to God, the elections were conducted successfully and in a safe atmosphere—which aroused the world's astonishment and admiration.

['Atwan] What stage has been reached in the efforts to achieve a merger with the YSP, and is it a step to perpetuate unity?

[Salih] We signed the document on allied coordination via a merger between the GPC and the YSP, and we are now in the process of translating it into effect.

['Atwan] Your Excellency, Mr. President, despite the praise for the issue of democracy, progress, and equality in Yemen, some circles talk about the existence of political prisoners in Yemen?

[Salih] That is part of the drivelling of those who want to distort the democratic experiment in our country. We stress that there is not a single political prisoner in Yemen—something of which we are proud. Yemen has chosen the road of freedom, and democracy, and respect for human rights. And there will never be any backtracking on this road.

['Atwan] What is your opinion of the press as a citizen?

[Salih] The press in our country is still at the beginning. It has not yet reached the level of the mature press. It requires time to reach that level. Nevertheless, it plays its role in the framework of the pluralistic, democratic approach and the freedom of expression. It exercises its freedom in full. We went through a very difficult phase during the three years of the siege against Yemen. And had it not been for democracy and the freedom of expression, we would have reached an even worse phase. I was exposed to criticism from the press more than anyone else. The press aimed its criticism against the president personally. But we accepted that and were not angry about it. We hope that that huge quantity of newspapers will metamorphose into quality. If the energies of these numerous newspapers are combined and are concentrated into a reasonable number of newspapers and publishing houses set up for them, they could advance the press' work, duties, and mission. There is a law for the press which governs its practice and defines its duties with regard to performing its mission. And God willing, the press in our country will take a substantial step forward in performing its mission in the most satisfactory way in the next stage. We are optimistic in this respect.

Opposition Reports Ba'thist Attacks on Marshlands

LD0206174893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] The Iraqi regime's artillery units have again heavily shelled the marshlands in southern Iraq. An Iraqi opposition spokesman, reporting the news, added: As a result of recent shelling by the Iraqi regime a great number of villages neighboring the marshlands have sustained heavy damage and a number of their inhabitants have been killed.

He also said: During clashes last week, the Iraqi opposition managed to down a Ba'thist regime helicopter in the Salin area.

Kurdish Council Statement on Shabu 'Assassination'

JN0206200393 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1705 GMT 2 Jun 93

["Text" of statement issued by the chairmanship of Iraq's Kurdistan National Council in Irbil on 2 June]

[Text] The chairmanship of the National Council in Iraq's Kurdistan has learned, with deep regret, about the assassination of the Assembly's member, colleague struggler Francis Yusuf Shabu, at the hands of hired killers, the traitors of the people and homeland, at an early hour on 1 June 1993 while he was returning home after attending a party held by the Assyrian Democratic Party in Dahuk. The struggler martyr was a prominent member of the Assyrian Democratic Party and its representative in the first National Council in Iraq's Kurdistan.

The new and unique democratic experiment in Iraq's Kurdistan received the admiration of all democrats and freedom-loving people in the civilized world and drew the interest of many militant nations and movements. This march was watered by the blood of our righteous martyrs and was paved by the sacrifices and bravery of the heroic peshmerga of Kurdistan, by our steadfastness, and by our determination to adhere to our democratic values.

Amid our struggle to reiterate the true Kurdish experiment and parliamentary life and to entrench the bases of the government of law, justice, and basic liberties, the chairmanship of the National Council reiterates and announces that Francis Yusuf Shabu is the martyr of the parliament of Iraq's Kurdistan. On this painful occasion, the chairmanship of the National Council expresses sympathy and offers condolences to all colleagues, the family, friends, and comrades of the martyrs, and to the strugglers of the Assyrian Democratic Movement. It also renews the pledge to all Assyrian and Christian brothers, as well as to others to work earnestly and firmly to safeguard their liberties and legitimate national rights.

We call on the government of Iraq's Kurdistan to expeditiously hold investigations and take all necessary steps to reveal the renegade criminals, find the truth, and inflict severe punishment on them.

A special parliamentary bloc has been formed to follow up the issue with the competent circles.

Glory and immortality to our colleague, struggler martyr Francis Yusuf Shadu; a splendid victory to the march of democracy in Iraq's Kurdistan; and shame on all criminals, the enemies of humanity.

[Signed] Jawhar Namiq Salim, speaker of Iraq's Kurdistan National Council
[Dated] 2 June 1993, Irbil

Kurdish Official on Need To Expel 'Traitors'

JN0206140293 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, June 2, INA—Chairman of the Executive Council of Kurdistan Autonomous Region Ja'far 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barzanji praised sacrifices of Kurdish people sons for Iraq's territorial integrity and defending achievements of July 17 revolution.

Meeting with Kurdish families migrated from al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate he said that suffering of our people in Kurdistan and their calamitous life under domination of sabotage groups would be a strong factor for expelling the traitors and those trading with the Kurdish issue and restoring Kurdistan to the motherland, Iraq.

The meeting discussed needs of the incoming Kurdish families acquainted with their problems and found solutions for them.

Al-Sahhaf on Arab Ties, Security Council, POW's

JN0206140593 Baghdad INA in English 1250 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Rabat, June 2, INA—Iraq's Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf emphasized that Iraq's brotherly relations with the sweeping majority of Arab countries were friendly and close.

He pointed in a statement to Moroccan newspaper ANWAL published yesterday to the development of Iraq's relations with the majority of the Arab countries, confirming that there were no difficulties in that respect but there were problems generated from those who involved themselves in a grave mistake in the aggression on Iraq, saying relations between the Arab countries could be developed if good wills were available.

INA correspondent in Rabat had quoted the minister as stressing the importance of Arab solidarity and reaching to formulas surpassing the past and that some, despite the mistakes they had made against Iraq and its people, should not be captives of the past and think of the future.

Mr. al-Sahhaf said Iraq would not be prisoner of the past and consider future more important from that and it would not abandon its pan-Arab role but rather continue work actively in that direction.

Mr. al-Sahhaf emphasized that the countries dominating over the Security Council themselves imposed unjust resolutions against Iraq and those states were exceeding and imposing poitical conditions even beyond those unjust resolutions.

The Iraqi foreign minister made it clear that the actual description of what was going on was considered despotism and injustice against Iraq because while it had fulfilled all its commitments towards the U.N. Security Council, those states dominating over the Security Council worked for continuation of the situation without reaching a solution.

The Iraqi minister pointed that there were influential parties in the council that would not want that subject to be decided for purposes having no relationship with the Security Council resolutions.

Iraq's Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has further emphasized that Iraq returned all war prisoners whether they were from Kuwait or Saudi Arabia or from the Americans or the English or others from countries of aggression, clarifying that what was now spoken about was the question of the missing and that the International Committee of the Red Cross had approved the subject as a topic of research and investigation about missing persons, not living prisoners behind bars.

Oil Minister on Ties With OPEC, Saudi Arabia's Role

JN0206140693 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, June 2, INA—Oil Minister 'Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti announced that Iraq took measures to support the oil reserve amounting to 112 billion barrels and increase it through explorations of yet unexplored spacious areas.

In an interview to AL-JUMHURIYAH daily, he said that the ministry started its activities for exploring these areas, including the western desert, pointing to the existence of cooperation plans with world companies for this purpose, and developing the area which is considered very important for Iraq because of its geological nature.

The minister added that Iraq, despite the conspiracy being carried out against it, would remain to be the very important country in the balance of world energy.

He expressed his belief that the industrialized states, which had been used as instruments for realizing the American strategic objective of controlling oil resources, are going to endeavour in future to establish ties with Iraq stronger than they were before.

The oil minister has described Iraq's relations with OPEC as normal and that Iraq would maintain clear influence on OPEC's strategy, pointing out that many of OPEC countries are looking forward to the return of Iraq, particularly the countries of medium and small production. The oil minister has affirmed that Saudi Arabia is playing a very bad role through ending OPEC's role as a power in the oil market through its direct coordination and relationship with the United States of America.

Decree Separates Agriculture, Irrigation Portfolios

JN0206180393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Jun 93

["Text" of Presidential Decree No. 106 issued on 2 June]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Presidential Decree No. 106.

In accordance with the provisions enshrined in Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we have decreed the following:

Agriculture and Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud 'Abdallah shall be appointed as minister of irrigation and acting minister of agriculture.

The head of the Council of Ministers, as well as the relevant ministers shall see to the implementation of this decree.

Drafted in Baghdad on 12 Dhi al-Hijjah 1413 Hegira, corresponding to 2 June 1993.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

Reasons Behind Separating Portfolios

JN0206202093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Jun (INA)—'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud 'Abdallah has been appointed minister of irrigation and acting minister of agriculture by a presidential decree issued today. The portfolio of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, which he held until today, was divided into two portfolios.

The Revolution Command Council issued the law governing the Ministry of Agriculture and that governing the Ministry of Irrigation, both of which go into effect as of tomorrow, 3 June. The two portfolios had been parts of a single ministry.

The decision to divide the aforementioned ministry into two separate portfolios seeks to achieve agricultural development in both agriculture and animal wealth, to promote and develop water resources, and to achieve the optimal use of water resources throughout the country.

Libyan Pilgrims Cross Border to Egypt

TA0206151893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] The Muslim Libyan pilgrims this afternoon crossed the border to Egypt, and will return to Libya by land. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that while at the Rafah border crossing, the head of the Libyan delegation refused to answer questions regarding the scandal which made them cut short their visit in Israel. He praised his hosts and said that the members of the delegation made a dream of visiting the holy Muslim sites in Jerusalem come true.

Chief Rabbi Invited to Libya

TA0306112393 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 Jun 93 p 10

[ITIM Report]

[Text] The media hullabaloo over the Libyan pilgrims' visit to Israel has not yet died down, and already we have learned that Chief Rabbi Yisra'el Lau has been invited to attend an international conference of spiritual leaders in Tripoli.

Senior spiritual figures from the three major religions will participate in the October conference, which as far as is known will be held under the auspices of the authorities. Rabbi Lau said that after he receives additional information, he may consider accepting the invitation, although an Arab state is involved.

Foreign Ministry sources said the ministry has not yet received an official invitation to the conference. When it does, the political echelon will have to decide whether to allow Rabbi Lau to go to Tripoli.

Palestinians Not Inclined To Attend Advance Talks

TA0306110593 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 3 Jun 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar]

[Excerpt] The Palestinian delegation is inclined not to attend the preliminary talks in Washington, senior political sources in Jerusalem have said. The Palestinians will, however, attend the bilateral round of talks scheduled for 14 June.

This evaluation is based on secret information that has reached Jerusalem. According to this information, the Palestinians are prepared and even want to reach a document of principles with Israel, but are not prepared to do so through U.S. mediation. According to the information, the Palestinians believe the United States is not serving as an honest broker and cite the document of principles the Americans presented to the sides on the eve of the closure of the last round of talks to support this claim, because the document was presented to Israel 48 hours before it was given to the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Rabin Calls For 'More Balanced' EC Stand

TA0306111493 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 Jun 93 p 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin attacked the EC's political positions yesterday and said that the time has come for Europe to adopt "a more balanced" stand on the Middle East. Rabin called on the EC to amend the Venice Declaration of 1980 and noted that "the Egyptian position is much closer to ours than the European one."

Rabin made the remarks in a meeting with two groups of British parliamentarians from the two large parties: the Conservatives and the Labor Party. Rabin called on the parliamentarians to help Israel reduce the $4.5-billion trade gap with Europe, which he called "unjustified."

According to a prime minister's bureau announcement, Rabin also criticized Britain and said that "it is not involved" in the multilateral process and must increase its activity. Nevertheless, it should be noted that Britain heads one of the multilateral groups on economic affairs dealing with financial institutions in the Middle East.

Rabin called on the British to invest in the territories in order to improve the quality and standard of living of the residents and told his interlocutors that these investments can be transferred directly to the territories without any Israeli mediation.

U.S. Said Coordinating Moves Prior to UN Meeting

TA0306045093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Israel and the United States have agreed to coordinate their moves in advance of the upcoming deliberations at the UN General Assembly. Qol Yisra'el's reporter in Washington says that over the course of the last two days, a series of meetings has taken place in New York and at the State Department in Washington. Taking part in the meetings were U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for International Affairs Doug Bennett and Israeli Foreign Ministry Deputy Director General Yohanan Bein. The Israeli and American ambassadors to the United Nations also participated. The two sides agreed that the American delegation would work along with Israel to put off the series of proposed resolutions which condemn Israel. The General Assembly opens in September.

Defense Exports for 1992 Detailed

TA0206170793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Jun 93 pp A1, A8

[Report by defense correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Text] Israel's defense exports in 1992 totaled $1.42 billion, $40-million less than in 1991. This figure confirms an early Defense Ministry assessment, according to which the defense exports will sustain their scope with minimal changes.

Defense sources have said that the fact that the scope of Israel's defense exports was maintained while the international markets have been shrinking is an achievement. During the past seven years, Israel has doubled its arms sales and has managed to maintain stable sales.

Israel has defense ties with some 70 countries. Last year, sales to Southeast Asia and East Europe have expanded, at the expense of narrowing markets in West Europe, South Africa, and America.

The leading export products were plane-upgrading kits, pilotless drones, and electronic systems. A very important deal signed last year was the $321.5 million-deal for the development of the second stage of the Arrow project, which the Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] are performing for the U.S. SDI administration.

In the first half of 1993, Israel's defense industries signed new exports deals to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars. The most significant deals were:

—The sale of seven Hunter pilotless IAI drones to the United States, with a supplement development fund of $140 million.

—The sale of advanced air-to-air missiles made by REFA'EL [Armament Development Authority] to a foreign country, at the price of some $100 million.

—A $50-million sale of light arms, ammunition, and personal gear to the Estonian Army. The deal includes the following Israeli companies: Israel Military Industries [IMI], Tadiran, Soltam, Ortech, and 'Ayit.

—The sale to a foreign country of advanced electronic warfare systems, developed by REFA'EL's Electronic Division, at some $23 million.

—An additional U.S. Air Force order of air-to-surface Popeye missiles, which will earn Israel some $23.4 million.

—Israel's Elbit has signed a deal with the Romanian Aircraft Industry for the upgrading of the Romanian Air Force MiG-21's. The scope of the project may reach $300 million over six years. The deal is still pending the approval of both governments, and its realization depends on the Romanian budgetary abilities.

—The sale of Elta Electronic Industries [an IAI subsidiary] protective systems for the German Air Force cargo planes flying over Bosnia, to the tune of some $7 million.

—A $20-million deal for the sale of two IAI pilotless drone systems to the Finnish Army.

—A $22-million deal for the sale of IAI airborne deception devices to the U.S. Navy.

—A $30-million deal for the sale of military products to an East European country.

The marketing efforts of the Israeli defense industries are widely covered by the international media. According to recently published foreign reports, Israel has offered to sell to India plans for the upgrading of MiG-21's and tanks, drones, and land and airborne armament, and offers deals at a sum total of $1 billion.

Other efforts aim at selling advanced ammunition and upgrading tanks and planes in East Europe; completing a deal of selling 18 Kfir jets from the Israel Air Force excess property to the Philippines for some $144 million; competing for the upgrading of F-5 planes; selling air-to-air missile technology to the United States; selling the method of dry storage of arms, vehicles, and military equipment to the German Army at a cost of $60 million.

Inquiry Team Unable To Find Cause of Military Accident

TA0206185193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1405 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Excerpt] The investigating team headed by Major General Yoram Ya'ir, which had been appointed by the chief of staff to probe the circumstances of the friendly fire shoot-out in which four paratroopers were killed and three were wounded in south Lebanon, is now holding a news conference. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports from the conference:

The investigating team included Major General Yoram Ya'ir, the manpower branch chief, and two colonels.

Here are the conclusions of the probe: Despite the debriefings and the efforts to reconstruct the event, its circumstances and consequences do not enable to team to determine what caused the initial shooting that triggered the event. The team is able to describe what happened until the second when fire was opened, as well as later developments. The team has several explanations of the causes that triggered the initial gunfire, but these explanations are mere conjectures.

The team assumes that the gunfire may have been caused by a factor related to the joining of the two details, to rules of engagement, to the human factor, or a combination of these factors.

The team found that all of the soldiers and commanders who were involved in the event acted to the best of their

ability and in accordance with their aptitude and experience. This was reflected in their vigorous efforts to ensure the success of the ambush and in their preparation and training, which lasted several days.

The team found that the brigade command, particularly the battalion command, had been under a very heavy, continuous work load, which was the result of the effort to provide optimal operational solutions to the threat facing the sector. Their work had been particularly arduous in the two weeks preceding the event.

The team's inquiry revealed no manifestations of troop negligence or carelessness prior to or during the action.

The team found that several combat techniques and operational procedures needed to be improved. The team further found that lessons from events and debriefings in that sector and neighboring sectors were being recorded, although this activity needs to be more competent and systematic. [passage omitted]

IDF Responds to Amnesty International Report

TA3105154193 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 31 May 93

[Israel Defense Forces "response to Amnesty International's report regarding human rights" on West Bank and Gaza issued 27 May in Jerusalem]

[Text] In a recent report, Amnesty International has made charges regarding alleged violations of human rights in the territories. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has issued the following statement, in which it addresses the main charges raised by Amnesty International.

The War Against Terrorism

In the wake of the recent escalation in terrorist attacks, the Israeli security forces have taken vigorous measures to prevent and root out terrorism. In this war against terrorism, all of Israel's security forces are taking part in a coordinated effort aimed primarily against the armed "fugitives" (individuals who are known to have carried out terrorist attacks and who are still at large). The IDF draws a clear distinction between innocent local residents and those terrorists whose against whom IDF operations are directed. This distinction constitutes a cornerstone of IDF operational policy in the territories. Accordingly, the IDF has established procedures designed to reduce to an absolute minimum any harm to the person or property of the general population.

IDF Activity to Apprehend Wanted Fugitives

Since the beginning of 1993, ten Israeli civilians, six members of the security forces, and 60 Arabs have been killed in the territories by Arab terrorists. The Palestinian terrorists who carried out these attacks are all armed and dangerous fugitives wanted by the security forces. These terrorist cells of wanted fugitives have also killed six Israeli civilians and four members of the security forces within Israel proper (pre-'67).

Due to these events, the Israeli government decided on March 30, 1993 to implement a closure of the territories. During the closure, the IDF has carried out a number of operations aimed a apprehending wanted fugitives and armed terrorists, using all legal means at its disposal to bring about their arrest. It is noteworthy that, to date, the IDF has apprehended approximately half of the remaining wanted fugitives. About 10 percent of them were killed in clashes IDF forces.

Throughout the closure, riots and disturbances have taken place, a great majority of them violent in nature. Members of the security forces have often found themselves in life-threatening situations, and have been forced to open fire, in accordance with the IDF's Rules of Engagement. There is no basis whatsoever to the claim that IDF soldiers have opened fire indiscriminately.

Injury of Children

To the IDF's deep regret, during the course of dispersing violent disturbances and in clashes between security forces and rioters, some children have been injured by IDF fire. In most cases of juvenile casualties, subsequent investigation revealed that they were wounded accidentally due to their presence at or near the scene of the riot. In some cases, they were active participants in these disturbances, and sometimes posed a real danger to the lives of IDF soldiers. It should be emphasized that the Rules of Engagement place clear and unequivocal limitations on the use of firearms, especially against minors. The IDF deeply regrets the presence of children at violent disturbances and the consequent casualties among them.

The Apprehension of Fugitives in the Homes of Local Residents

The IDF categorically rejects Amnesty International's claim that one of the objectives of the IDF, if not its principal one, is to punish those who have allowed fugitives to take refuge in their homes. Furthermore, the IDF also repudiates Amnesty's allegation regarding the use of explosives in order to cause extensive damage to these homes.

This is simply not the case. Usually, the owners are in fact exploited by the armed terrorists, who take them "hostage" and impose their will upon them. The IDF has no intention of punishing these victims.

All actions taken by the IDF in its pursuit of armed fugitives are based solely on military considerations, and are recognized and sanctioned by international law. These actions are carried out for the sole purpose of apprehending fugitives. Under no circumstances are they designed to punish the owners of the homes where the terrorists have taken refuge. The use of force is derived from the vital need to apprehend the fugitives hiding out in the homes of local residents, while preventing injury both to those living in these houses and to

IDF soldiers. As a result, extreme measures are sometimes required, yet these cause damage solely to property.

With regard to the charge that IDF soldiers use live ammunition and explosives in order to punish the home owners, it must be emphasized that such means are used only when entering houses occupied by armed terrorists.

In the event of damage to property, residents may apply to the Israeli Civil Administration for compensation. To date, a number of such claims have been filed by individuals whose homes have been damaged. These claims are being processed by the relevant authorities, and some of the home owners will receive compensation in the near future.

Disciplinary Action for Misconduct

The IDF investigates every incident which results in death. According to regulations, every such incident is investigated both by commanders in the field and by the Military Police's Criminal Investigation Department (CID). If the investigation reveals that the personnel responsible have acted contrary to regulations, the Military Advocate General takes appropriate legal action against the individuals concerned.

Amnesty International presented the IDF with a list of incidents involving local residents in which alleged violations of regulations took place, resulting in the death of innocent people. All the cases listed in the report are currently being investigated by the CID. Amnesty's findings have been forwarded to the office of the Military Advocate General, and every charge will be investigated fully. When the investigation is completed, the IDF will make its findings known. Should it be found that any of its personnel acted improperly, they will be court martialed.

The IDF regrets that Amnesty International—which submitted its allegations to the IDF only a few days ago—did not see fit to wait for a full and authoritative reply, and chose rather to jump to hasty conclusions and to publicize them.

Treasury: 'Impressive' Growth in Economic Activity

TA3005090293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 May 93 p C1

[ITIM Report]

[Excerpt] Treasury Customs and VAT [value added tax] Department figures for the first three months of 1993 show an impressive growth in economic activity, department head Arye Zeif told the Industrial and Economic Club at Tel Aviv's Sheraton Hotel Friday [28 May].

Zeif noted that the growth in volume reached 21 percent and the real growth in economic activity was 9 percent. The highest growth rate was in heavy industry, which jumped 18 percent, and a similar growth level is expected in May.

Zeif also noted that 80 percent of imports are free of customs as a result of trade agreements with the EC, the United States, and EFTA [European Free Trade Area]. He said that customs would be dropped on 95 percent of imports in the very near future. [passage omitted]

Government Expenditures, Revenues Detailed

TA0206162193 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 2 Jun 93 p 5

[Report by 'Eran Klein]

[Text] The government's local expenditures for the past month stood at 5.53 billion shekels, while the total revenue stood at 5.3 billion shekels. This is one of the data about the government's budgetary activities. The 246-million-shekel local deficit was financed by local capital market issues (and bank sales) totaling 400 million shekels, resulting in the absorption of 154 million shekels.

The data indicate that in the first five months of 1993, the government local activity deficit stood at 1.046 billion shekels. The capital raising during that period totaled 3.84 billion shekels, as a result of which the government accounts absorbed 2.8 billion shekels. Most of these funds were deposited in government accounts in the Bank of Israel.

In the first five months of the year, the government spent 28.1 billion shekels, and its local revenues for that period stood at 27 billion shekels only.

State Closes Netanyahu's Complaint Investigation

TA0206204993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Excerpt] State Attorney Dorit Beinish has decided to close the investigation into Knesset Member [MK] Binyamin Netanyahu's complaint. The state attorney found no evidence substantiating the allegation that a person or an element had wiretapped Netanyahu's telephone, violated his privacy, or blackmailed him. A police investigation failed to come up with evidence substantiating the suspicion that the offenses had been perpetrated by MK Netanyahu's political opponents. Although the allegation that his election campaign headquarters had been wiretapped was founded, the evidence was insufficient. [passage omitted]

Lubrani: Israel To Preserve Security in South Lebanon

TA0206122293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Israel is aware of the fact that Lebanon is committed to the peace process and that the positions of all

sides involved in the process must be taken into consideration. At the same time, Israel hopes that Lebanon will not stop the peace negotiations due to Security Council Resolution 425, which constitutes the bone of contention in the talks between the two countries. This resolution calls for the withdrawal of all Israeli forces from south Lebanon.

This was said by Uri Lubrani, a member of the Israeli peace delegation and coordinator of activities in Lebanon, in a meeting with Druze dignitaries in Lebanon on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that Lubrani said that Israel is determined to preserve the security situation in south Lebanon as it is, and, if peace is achieved, Israel will not abandon its friends there.

Arab Dies of Injuries; Other Incidents Reported

TA0106102493 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 1 Jun 93 p 2

[Report by Yo'av Kaspi]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was slightly injured in the head by stones thrown at an IDF patrol in Hebron yesterday morning. He was evacuated to a nearby military clinic, and the Army launched searches.

Ibrahim Abu-Rahima, 17, from the al-Mughazi refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, who was shot by soldiers about a month ago, yesterday died of the injuries at East Jerusalem's al-Maqasid Hospital. His body was transferred to Gaza, where he was buried. [passage omitted]

Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] suffered a crushing defeat in the elections to the UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] workers council yesterday, losing its majority in the council. The elections were won by a Fatah list, which garnered 16 seats.

[On page 18 of the same issue of 'AL HAMISHMAR, Yo'av Kaspi adds: "An IDF soldier suffered moderate injuries after a stone hit him in the face. The incident occurred while disturbances were being dispersed in the al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip last night."

[The report further states that a "22-year-old fugitive affiliated with the Fatah Hawks was captured last night in the course of routine IDF activities in Khan Yunus."]

Squads Found Independent of Palestinian Leadership

TA0106130893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Jun 93 p B2

[Report by Dani Rubinstein]

[Excerpts] A defense establishment review of terrorist attacks perpetrated by squads composed of wanted men from the West Bank and Gaza—the latest being the murder of serviceman and yeshiva student Erez Shmu'el in Hebron—has shown clearly that almost all the squads operate independently, with no link to organized headquarters here or abroad.

The squads—those affiliated with Fatah, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and the left-wing fronts—receive hardly any assistance from abroad, whether funds, weapons, or terrorist materiel. Nor do they receive operational instructions. They maintain occasional ties with activists in neighboring countries—for instance, with Egyptians who help fugitives cross the border—but these ties are usually cursory. Most attacks on Israelis are initiated and organized locally. [passage omitted]

The change to purely local activity has generated political changes that are beginning to be discernible. One example is the first joint operation carried out by Hamas and Fatah squads in the Gaza Strip in which four Israeli and Arab vegetable merchants were murdered three weeks ago. The perpetrators issued a joint statement on the operation and then warned Arabs against trading with Israelis. This event may seem isolated, but it fits well the general picture of squads of fugitives operating independently in the field. While tension and rivalry persist between PLO activists and leaders, on one hand, and Muslim fundamentalists in the territories and abroad, on the other, terrorist squads affiliated with the rival organizations are suddenly cooperating and coordinating their various activities. [passage omitted]

The PLO's military arm—once the organization's symbol and glory—is being replaced by West Bank and Gaza residents. They began with spontaneous popular action, embarking on the intifadah with almost no armed attacks. Subsequently, squads composed of wanted terrorists, seemingly dissociated from the PLO, were formed. They acquire weapons by stealing or seizing them from Israelis, and they find refuge with the population, to which they belong. They choose the targets of their operations. For instance, they refused to obey the long-standing PLO appeal to stop assassinating suspected collaborators. Now they are coordinating their activities (as they did in Gaza) without consulting the leaders.

The number of fugitives seems small. According to defense establishment data, there are several hundred in Gaza and the West Bank, but the thousands of security prisoners and detainees overflowing the prisons should also be counted. Their number changes daily, with many being detained and released. There are some 4,500 convicted prisoners serving long prison terms, about 8,000 serving short terms, and detainees who have not been tried. [passage omitted]

Members of fugitive squads in the territories as well as the incarcerated and released prisoners are today the Palestinians' military arm. As their activity becomes more independent, the political standing of the West Bank and Gaza population grows stronger, and this may have a significant impact in the future.

Al-Hariri: Libyan Pilgrimage 'Blow' to Solidarity

NC0206205093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] In remarks to reporters at his residence in the French capital, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has condemned the Libyan pilgrims' visit to Jerusalem, declaring that it is a blow to inter-Arab solidarity and an action that runs counter to Arab interests and the success prospects of the negotiations with Israel.

Al-Hariri added: Although we have had nine rounds of negotiations with Israel, this does not mean that the differences between the Arabs and Israel have been cleared. We must not forget that we are negotiating with an enemy who has not altered his methods and continues to bombard areas in the south and attack our citizens, including children, there.

On another issue, al-Hariri said he has no knowledge of the facts on which Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri might have relied when he said yesterday that donor countries are refusing to give aid to Lebanon before [anti-Israeli] resistance operations in the south are halted, Syria withdraws from Lebanese territories, and before Lebanon joins the multilateral negotiations.

Al-Hariri declared: As far as the government is concerned, Lebanon's reconstruction has begun and must continue regardless of the position of other countries.

He remarked that the presence of Christians is a basic factor in Lebanon and said Christian emigration must stop so that these emigrants might not lose the opportunity to effectively participate in rebuilding Lebanon.

During the same meeting with the journalists, Information Minister Michel Samahah said that after 17 years of lawlessness, Lebanon is again implementing the law. He remarked, however, that the Publications Law and Legislative Decree 104 need to be amended.

Defense Minister Discusses Juniyah Port Closure

NC0306070793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] National Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has issued the following statement: An artificial uproar has been created over the decision to reorganize Juniyah Port; the resulting confusion does not reveal the truth. To put things in perspective: The emergency situation that prevailed and allowed the port to be used for civilian and commercial purposes has ended. This requires placing the port under Lebanese Army control again and using it only for security and military purposes. In previous statements, the Lebanese Government clearly defined the legal ports and aspects of their use.

Dallul added: The Defense Ministry would also like to explain that its decision does not include the small fishing port near Juniyah. The ministry stresses the need to understand the decision correctly; it aims to strengthen the Lebanese Army's ability to monitor its coasts. It is difficult to mix military activity with routine commercial activity at ports, especially in view of the status of Juniyah Military Port, which can barely accommodate coastguard vessels.

Security sources have explained that reports of the closure of Juniyah Port are incorrect and inaccurate. The tourist marina is working normally according to regulations. Use of the military basin in exceptional circumstances, as in the civil war, is banned. Now that things have returned to normal, legal ports are working normally, the Lebanese Navy is reoperating, five new coastguard vessels are being brought in, and the Juniyah naval base and its naval basin are the main base, it is impossible to maintain the exceptional situation of the past.

A meeting at Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz's home discussed the Defense Ministry decision. Buwayz said there will be a meeting with the defense minister to find solutions to the problems arising from the port's closure.

Deputy Ilyas al-Khazin attended the meeting and threatened to adopt a stance, which, he said, might be negative.

One Killed, One Injured in Tripoli Incident

NC0306085293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 June 93

[Text] A scuffle occurred among military personnel in the al- Tarbi'ah area in Tripoli last night. A patrol from the al-Tall police station was sent to investigate the situation and arrest those involved. Unknown people opened fire, and six bullets hit the patrol car. Reinforcements under Captain Bassam al-Ayyubi were sent to the scene. A clash ensued in which Zakariya Abu-Murad was killed and Mahran 'Abd-al-Razzaq Khazma was wounded. The dead man was taken to the Islamic Hospital and the wounded man was taken to the al-Mullah Hospital in Tripoli.

The security forces arrested a many people who participated in the exchange of fire. An investigation is underway to reveal the circumstances of the incident.

Israeli Planes Overfly South; SLA Post Shelled

NC0306112493 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew reconnaissance sorties over the south today, breaking the sound barrier over the capital at 1330.

Our correspondent in the border region reports that the South Lebanese Army [SLA] position in Rshaf came under fire from rocket shells last night. The elements guarding the position returned fire. Several Katyushas reportedly fell in the border area; Israeli radio said some fell in the border area last night without causing damage. The radio said Israeli and SLA troops retaliated by firing at the villages near the border area.

Papers Report U.S. Senate Call for Syrian Withdrawal

NC0306055993 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] AL-NAHAR newspaper reports that it has received a statement from Washington revealing that Donald Riegle, Democratic senator from Michigan, and seven other senators have asked the Senate to make a recommendation calling on Syria to withdraw from Lebanon. The call was immediately supported by Democratic majority leader Senator George Mitchell and Republican minority leader Senator Robert Dole.

AL-DIYAR, for its part, reports that the U.S. Congress has issued a decision calling on President Clinton to take action to provide the necessary conditions for reviving the al-Ta'if agreement and encouraging Syrian-Lebanese governmental negotiations to set a timetable for pulling Syrian troops out of Lebanon.

U.S.-Israeli Ties, Peace Talks Viewed

NC0206204493 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 24 May 93 pp 1, 13

[Editorial by Talal Salman: "A U.S. Empire by Israeli Decree"]

[Text] The statement that "the U.S. empire, which now dominates the world unilaterally, will be the most short-lived empire in history" is not new. What is also not new is that most of its "victories" have been accomplished for it by its foes, opponents, and those who claim enmity to it more than they were achieved by its intrinsic power, its "ingrained" experience of nations and countries, or by its "creed." This creed is more rigid than the creeds and ideologies swallowed by its "sons" and those who govern in its name in the way the old pre-Islam Arabs did to their "idols" made of dates.

Nowhere else in history such a politically illiterate, isolated society swamped by aggravating economic crises that do not seem to have serious solutions in the foreseeable future dominated the world. Aside from the theoretical aspect, facts increasingly prove that the new U.S. Administration is immeasurably less experienced, less wise, and has poorer initiative that the Bush-Baker administration. It is a feeble, improvised, and confused administration mortgaged to the will of a force outside American society. This force neither truly represents that society, nor does it express its genuine interests. All it is concerned about is dominating that society's decision-making to use it in the service of their "global" interests.

This force is Zionism. When we say this, we are speaking objectively, not because we are motivated by the natural Arab hostility to this movement, which has been trying to control the world for the past 100 years, by proxy at first and later, when it is in full control, by more dirct means.

The direct negotiations now taking place in Washington between the Arabs and their Israeli enemy are not the only way to discover the extent of Zionist control over the Clinton administration. They provide unequivocal evidence that Yitzhaq Rabin is the strongest in and over this administration.

If the Arab delegations now lack the justification to resume the negotiations if the U.S. influence on Israeli decisionmaking remains weak, it is because the delegations felt that the Clinton administration forgets its pledges and abandons its commitment to its "full partner" role. It forgets this role whenever the Israeli side (?confronts) it with rejection, whether it uses the pretext of its domestic situation or uses blackmail by pressuring the administration from within, where the Israelis have unlimited influence.

Those who follow the details of U.S.-Israeli relations in their "new" phase say that, during his visit two months ago, Yitzhaq Rabin asked U.S. President Clinton (it was Clinton's first official meeting with a foreign guest) to make a commitment on a specific issue and that he got the required commitment.

Rabin's demand was that Clinton pledge not to meet Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, not in Damascus, Washington, or a third capital, without coordination with him and his consent on the agenda of the meeting.

This means that Israel is trying to blackmail the U.S. President publicly, restrict his movement, and control his foreign relations so that none of these relations will be endorsed except those in line with its interests.

It is quite obvious in this context that the pledge with which [Israeli Foreign Minister] Peres recently returned from China (and perhaps from India too) that the largest county on earth refrain from selling any arms to the Arabs, particularly to the Syrians, would not have been secured by Rabin's foreign minister without direct U.S. pressure on Beijing in response to overt Israeli blackmail. This blackmail proved the U.S. foreign relations link to the Israeli interests and indeed Israeli ambitions in the Arab land.

A third example is the story of the "Arab Afghans." It is obvious to everyone that those "volunteers" were assembled under the banner of "Islam" with funding from Arab parties who take direct orders from the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, foremost among whom is Saudi Arabia. These "volunteers" are part of an apparatus annexed to the CIA, or became so in time.

They have become like members of the French Foreign Legion which comprises mercenaries and nationals of the French colonies overseas and who used to be shipped to fight against their own nations or against nations experiencing similar conditions under colonialism and fighting for independence and liberation.

Now here are the "Arab Afghans," who are all subordinate to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency command,

becoming a bugbear to scare and extort a group of Arab regimes which are very "friendly" with the United States.

The timing is noteworthy: While the "war" represented by the Arab-Israeli negotiations was open on all fronts, those "mercenaries" whom Israel had nurtured from within the U.S. apparatus turned their weapons on...the very Arab rulers who had originally sent them!

This was another instance of blackmail against those regimes to make them surrender completely to Israel and abandon the struggle (by its nature pan-Arab) against it. It was also a cruel stab to those parties which tried through the negotiations (and under U.S. sponsorship) to retrieve a minimum of the Arab rights to territory and self-determination.

Perhaps the most obvious instance of Israeli blackmail, carried out amid U.S. silence, is what is happening in Egypt now—exposing what is being planned for that country.

Western newspapers (at first the British newspapers, later joined by U.S. newspapers) began devoting entire pages to stories about the Egyptian regime's wretchedness, feebleness, and inability to confront the worsening sectarian disturbances that are gradually ruining the country's economy, national unity, and security.

The primary beneficiary is Israel which is blackmailing the Egyptian regime, using it as a servile tool of pressure on the Arab negotiators, "tempting" them to make concessions and abandon their rights in order to appease Israel and make it halt its assault on Egypt!

In this respect, the U.S. Administration has no recourse except to threaten Husni Mubarak that it will halt its aid to Egypt and warn him—after he has made repeated supplications—that it will not continue to provide the aid necessary for his continued hold on power beyond 1995. Afterwards he must manage on his own!

How can that wretched regime, which, by its own public admission, has lost several billion dollars in tourism revenue, manage on its own? It had been unable to provide food for the continually increasing millions of Egyptians, even when taking into account the tourism income, which had been expected to rise before it was disrupted by the organized "rioting" under an "Islamist" banner. Some of those disrupters had returned from Afghanistan, where they had operated under Israeli patronage and U.S. command. Some others are still residing on U.S. territory and publicly declaring that they will lead "jihad" against Husni Mubarak's tottering regime!!

All this is happening to the accompaniment of a far-echoing and organized Israeli campaign operating inside the centers where U.S. decisions are cooked up and marketed in the form of an official policy that says that Islam is the only current and future enemy of the United States, the entire West, Western culture, and the new world order!

This means that Israel is manufacturing an "enemy" and using it as bogeyman. At the same time it is trying to prod the United States into waging war against this "fictitious enemy." One should keep in mind that Washington had been using this type of political Islam as a ferocious ally against its "communist" and "nationalist" opponents—all of them infidels destined to a wretched fate in hell.

As chance would have it, Israel's real enemies are the people of Islam, the bearers of its message, and the preachers of its call, that is the Arabs with whom other Muslims cannot vie for the honor of being the leaders in the world of the adherents of the true religion!

It is of interest that Washington and the Zionist movement in the United States are opening the doors of the former Soviet Islamic republics to Israel, the very party that is propagating the image of Islam as the absolute enemy of the United States and Western culture. Israel has been authorized by the United States to exercise patronage over those republics during the period of their search for identity that is expected to be long.

Many examples of what we say are evident in the Arab condition, events in the Islamic world, and the turbulent relationship with the new U.S. Administration. We are, however, facing a U.S. imperial design under Zionist leadership. It is as if the United States is seeking to control the world, while Zionist influence is seeking to control U.S. decisions.

The Arab are oblivious to all this but it does not prevent them from trying to steal the show on each other by appeasing Israel in Washington or Washington in Israel.

It is for this reason that one finds it difficult to imagine that the Arab-Israeli negotiations can succeed. A miracle is needed to set a date for each new round of negotiations and begin it on the set date.

Is this not "war"?!

If it is not, then what is "war"?!

Commentary Mocks U.S. 'Paper Emperor,' Arab 'Lackeys'

NC0306110093 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 28 May 93 p 1

[Editorial by Talal Salman: "A Paper Emperor"]

[Text] It appears that the Bill Clinton administration has come to restore credence to Mao Zedong's famous slogan that "the United States is a paper tiger."

In only few months, most of America's historic allies—both the majority of the European countries and Japan—have left or are on the verge of leaving the U.S. fold.

But the noticeable thing is the daring shown by some worn-out regimes that could not have possibly continued to exist had it not been for the U.S. blessing, support, and direct assistance in the form of funds, weapons, political backing—the total embrace of the CIA.

The irony is that some of the former foes of U.S. policy, such as Boris Yeltsin and some of those who have been made leaders of formerly communist European countries are now closer to Washington than its allies for half a century, that is from the days of World War II.

Statements made in the past few days in Cairo and Riyadh by some who were regarded as "lackeys" or "serfs" reveal how much more contempt these "friends" have for Washington than its foes, that is if there are still any foes.

When the matter reaches the extent that officials such Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the interior minister of the kingdom of white silence and black gold, launch attacks on Washington and Western countries in general because they attempted to extend their care to the "Human Rights Society" in Riyadh and when Anis Mansur, the Egyptian journalist known for his closeness not only to Washington but also to Tel Aviv, attacks U. S. policy and accuses Washington of encouraging "fundamentalist movements" opposed to the Egyptian regime because it is hosting Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and not detaining, expelling, or extraditing him to the Egyptian Central Security, then it becomes necessary to look for the imbalance in Washington itself and reduce the wager on the new U.S. Administration as the leader of the world and its new order.

This administration does not have a single friend.

The U.S. empire has gotten rid of its enemies but is lacking a single ally. Even those who were beneath the rank of an ally now have the audacity and the nerve to attack the "master" while fully aware that they have no choice but to enlist the White House's sympathy and patronage.

True, there cannot be more friendship and alliance than what is needed between the strong and the weak, but this new administration is losing ground abroad and at home so quickly that this is making it incapable of leading the globe or even of managing the United States itself.

The tragedy is that the criticisms leveled by some "lackeys" against their "master" in Washington come in opposition to their peoples' wills and attempts to exercise their rights, and not in the name of their peoples or their interests.

They want Washington to be a force of suppression inside their countries and not merely a world force of suppression that topples ideologies, creeds, camps, and countries that have one day raised the banner of man's right to a better future. They miss Washington as a force of repression that humiliates their peoples in the name of the new world order. They complain because it has left them exposed and facing the chaotic forces of change. But they are only inciting these forces of change and assuring them that they will have to face only their "strength." This will drive these regimes to pursue more repression, injustice, and more trampling on human rights, thus inevitably speeding up the change and justifying it at the local, regional, and international levels.

Maybe this could be the only service rendered to the Clinton administration, though without having sought or wanted it.

Congratulations Mr. Bob [name as published]. Some have seen you as the mighty Samson. Hillary has seen you for what you really are. The world now knows you as a mere paper emperor. Needless to say, all his friends are also made of paper.

India

Minister Says Israel Friendship Not at Expense of Arabs

BK0306091093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] The union minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, has said that India's friendship with Israel would not affect its relations with Arab countries. Talking to newspersons at Amritsar today, he said our role is to bring the two sides together to solve the Palestine problem. Referring to his talks with the Israeli foreign minister, Mr. Shim'on Peres, in Delhi last month, Mr. Bhatia said that our friendship is not at the cost of Arabs and the Palestinians.

Commentary Notes Political Turmoil in Pakistan

BK0206140593 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 2 Jun 93

[T.S. Raizada commentary]

[Text] Despite the historic judgment of 26 May, striking down presidential decree of 18 April which had sent the 217-member lower house packing, the political turmoil in Pakistan remains at its peak. It is not very clear which way the events will unfold, but, it is definite that there would be many more suprises as President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Ms. Benazir Bhutto will not accept the defeat at the hands of the judiciary which restored the National Assembly, the prime minister, and the cabinet.

For the present, Prime Minister Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has indicated, like a true politician, that he has no immediate plan to impeach President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. But it goes without saying that once settled properly with two-thirds majority through horse trading and change of chief ministers, he will chip president's constitutional powers, if not impeach him. Known for his double-speak, Nawaz Sharif would not support Ishaq for his second term, in any case. His heart is not as clean as he pretends to be. He has yet to seek the support of the chief ministers and the leader of opposition, Benazir Bhutto, before he looks to repeal the Eighth Amendment under which President Ghulam Ishaq Khan dissolved the assembly. But the dissolution of Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province assemblies has once again put Nawaz Sharif on the match. It is pressure tactics to compel Mr. Sharif to dissolve national assemblies and seek fresh mandate for both state assemblies as well as for the National Assembly.

For Benazir, the court verdict was a surprise. She [word indistinct] that some kind of verdict could have come when the Assembly was dissolved in 1990. She opted to side with the president in his tussle with Sharif and even became a partner in the caretaker regime. It has also disturbed the equations between troika of the president, the Army, and the prime minister that normally rules Pakistan. Though politics attracts stranger bedfellows in battles, yet Gulam Ishaq Khan and Nawaz Sharif are unlikely to be friends again while the chief of the Army Staff is one of Ghulam Ishaq Khan's favored relations; the attitude of the corps commanders who really decide for the Army is not known.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan has certainly lost face. For him to continue in power or seek the second term has become untenable. He was relying on the support of state assemblies and that of Ms. Bhutto for his second tenure as president. That faith is shaking now. The Supreme Court decision has also revealed, for the first time, the administrative vulnerability of President Ishaq Khan, rendering him weakened in troika as never before. No one helps the weak. Even Benazir Bhutto must be repenting to have helped the weak president.

The reinstatement of Nawaz Sharif has raised fundamental questions about the future of Pakistani politics. He will look for functional democracy by looking to remove the draconian Eighth Amendment of the Constitution. He would see to it that the primacy of power is held by elected politicians rather than the nonelected members of the establishment. In fact, at the roots of the power struggle is the ambition of the Punjabi politicians who hold 100 seats in the 217-member lower house. Sharif, will, in future, have three options. One, Ishaq to tender resignation, to impeach him under article 47-1 of the constitution, or lay charges of treason. Ishaq will have to depend on dissident members of the IJI [Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad] and new-found alliance partners like the PPP [Pakistan People's Party]. Much will depend on USA's support to Benazir as well as to Ishaq. If favorable signals from the USA, President Ishaq can proclaim a state of emergency under Article 232 and, using Armed Forces, can remain in power. This would intensify struggle between Sharif and Ishaq and victory would take side with one who gets the support of Armed Forces. Till today, the president is taken as a father figure of the establishment and that of the Armed Forces fighting the corrupt civilian [word indistinct] and unscrupulous politicians who are thoroughly corrupt.

Benazir Bhutto has yet to play her political intrigue. So far, she has appeared to be on wrong side of the political fence. If she switches to Sharif's camp, it would only boost Nawaz Sharif's stature and not her own, and would only be playing second fiddle to Nawaz Sharif. If she continues to side with Ishaq, she would have at stake her credibility. She has a chance of coming to power by joining hands with Ishaq Khan, provided the Armed Forces remain on his side. Democracy in Pakistan, in any case, would see many ups and downs before developing any worthwhile roots in power hungry Pakistan. The dissolution of the two assemblies, if followed by the other two, would pave the way to the fresh elections that Ms. Benazir Bhutto has been craving for.

Army on Alert in Bombay After Slaying of BJP Lawmaker

BK0206131093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] In Maharashtra, the Army has been put on alert in sensitive areas in South Bombay as tension prevails following the murder of a BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] legislator, Premkumar Sharma. A UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] report, quoting police sources, says the state reserve police and other paramilitary forces were deployed today in a few sensitive areas to maintain law and order. Meanwhile, several localities in South Bombay observed a bundh [strike] in protest against the killing.

Deaths in Assam Ambushes; Meghalaya Wants More Forces

BK0306035793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] In Assam, six ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] militants have been killed in an encounter with the security forces in the (Mitai Pukara) area of Sibsagar District. According to official sources in Guwahati, the militants armed with LMG [light machine guns] and other sophisticated weapons ambushed a police party in the area. The police party returned the fire resulting in the death of six militants. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered. In another incident in the state, a subdivisional police officer was seriously injured and his personal security officer killed when suspected Bodo militants ambushed their vehicle in Darrang District. The police officer, Mr. Y. Gautham, has been admitted in the medical college hospital in Guwahati. Combing operations are on to nab the militants.

The Meghalaya chief minister, Mr. S.C. Marak, has sought more paramilitary forces from the center to maintain peace in the state. Talking to newsmen in Shillong, he said he had apprised the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, of the situation. Mr. Marak, who was in New Delhi recently, met a number of central leaders, including the prime minister and chief ministers of other northeastern states.

Minister Says Foreign Economic Dependence To Decline

BK0306041693 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, says the interest rates will be reviewed if the inflation rate continues its downward trend. Inaugurating the southern office of SEBI [Stock Exchange Board of India] in Madras, Dr. Manmohan Singh said the government's economic management should inspire confidence in the investors. He said the compulsory lending by banks to the government has been eased, releasing more funds for the market economy. The finance minister urged all players in the capital market to cooperate with the SEDI, saying there is no scope for confrontation.

Earlier, talking to newsmen in Madras, Dr. Singh said the country's economic dependence on foreign nations will be reduced considerably in another three years. Dr. Singh said this is possible because of the new economic measures and the improved balance of payments position.

Iran

Mojahedin-e Khalq Deny Report of U.S. Military Help

NC0206155093 Paris AFP in English 1528 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Nicosia, June 2 (AFP)—Iranian rebels on Wednesday [2 June] denied a report from Tehran that U.S. forces in the Gulf had helped them carry out cross-border raids from Iraq.

"These are lies from the Iranian regime which is trying to lift the morale of its desperate troops," the Mojahedin-e Khalq, Iran's main armed opposition group, said in a statement to AFP in Nicosia.

The Iranian government "is again raving after an increase in Mojahedin operations in Iran which has spread panic" among its leaders, it said.

The semi-official TEHRAN TIMES charged that captured guerrillas had confessed the U.S. military had meetings with members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq in the past two months.

The English-language daily said the United States had given them information on targets in Iran where bombs could be planted, and "food supplies to last them for 15 days." [passage omitted]

Christopher 'Isolate Iran' Call to Allies Will Fail

LD0206134593 Tehran IRNA in English 1138 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 2, IRNA—The two English dailies Wednesday [2 June] strongly criticized U.S. State Secretary Warren Christopher for urging the U.S. allies to isolate Iran and said Washington's new attempt will fail.

The editorial in 'TEHRAN TIMES' wrote "America's blatant animosity with the Islamic Republic since its inception in February 1979 is an indisputable fact."

Underlining that during the past 14 years Washington used all of its resources to strike at Iran, it said, "for the moment the U.S. is facing the problem of finding new means of striking at Iran" different from the device the U.S. used when it provoked Iraq to attack Iran in 1980, for the old weapons have proved to be inefficacious.

Now the Democrats are trying to fight Iran with two of the most hackneyed tools: The Western-styled human rights weapon and charges of terrorism, it said.

As for the human rights device, the paper said that the U.S. is facing serious problems. "America's European allies believe that if the subject of the human rights in Iran is to be considered from the West's point of view then obviously something has to be done about the Saudi Arabia where the standards of freedom and the human rights are not acceptable by any known criterion."

In regards to charges of terrorism, the paper said this has also proved to be an ineffective tool, "for it has now been proved to the world that America itself is the greatest training center for international terrorism under the aegis of the CIA."

It revealed that the MKO [Mojahedin e-Khalq] terrorist members, recently captured while planting a bomb in southern Iran, confessed that in the past two months the American forces in the Persian Gulf had meetings with the MKO leaders, and have put at their disposal the required guidance and information on centers in Iran where bombs could be planted.

"Thus it would seem to be quite fair to ask the question: Who supports the terrorists?" TEHRAN TIMES questioned.

The other English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' said in its editorial that Christopher's remark "is another ill-fated attempt to damage the image of the Islamic Iran."

"After 14 years of an economic embargo against Tehran, Washington has not been able to undermine the Islamic regime" and rather "the revolution has become more popular not only inside Iran but in many other countries as well."

It noted that during the past four years many industrialized and developing countries have expanded their political, economic and cultural cooperation with Iran.

"As an important country in the Middle East as well as the Persian Gulf region, Iran is daily gaining credibility in the world. This is the result of a combination of political stability, economic potential and geopolitical location."

It said many developed countries such as Italy, Germany, France, Austria, Russia, Sweden, Denmark, Brazil, Spain and Japan are engaged in the implementation of multi-billion dollar infrastructural projects in Iran.

"The above mentioned countries will not jeopardize their relations with Iran based on accusation by an obviously floundering U.S. Administration. Japan and united Europe will not be yes-men in the hands of Washington for its political ambitions in the developing world. America must know that it cannot become the world's leviathan by merely exercising hostility and inviting others to follow suit."

"While Iran on several occasions has shown its goodwill to Washington—like using its influence to free the western, including the American hostages in Lebanon—the American politicians have not only taken any step to improve ties such as releasing the frozen Iranian assets, but they have even done whatever they could to damage Iran's prestige and credibility, worldwide."

"This new U.S. attempt against Iran will fail. What Mr. Christopher said last Friday will ultimately become egg on his face. But should we expect a rational approach towards Iran from a man who the Islamic revolution put out of a job 14 years ago? KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL said in conclusion.

Velayati, Swiss Foreign Minister Discuss Bosnia

LD0206181393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] During a telephone conversation between the foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Switzerland today, the latest developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina were discussed.

During this telephone conversation our country's foreign minister described the current situation in Bosnia as very tragic and said: For humanitarian reasons we are all dutybound to strive toward solving this fundamental problem. Referring to the philanthropic assistance provided by Switzerland, Mr. Velayati expressed the hope that greater efforts would be undertaken on the political and international arenas, too.

In reply the Swiss foreign minister said: I was very impressed by your feelings and I hope this tragedy will end with the help of all countries of the world. He added: I assure you that I will do all I can towsrd realization of this objective.

It is worth mentioning that Mr. Velayati also held a telephone conversation with the foreign ministers of France and Austria about Bosnia yesterday.

Majles Official Criticizes Europe's Failure in Bosnia

LD3005191993 Tehran IRNA in English 1722 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 30, IRNA—The Majles vice speaker voicing Iran's concern over the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina (B-H), today asked world countries particularly European states to take steps to resolve the problem with a sense of responsibility.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Rohani who is also secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, in his meeting with the visiting Finnish deputy foreign minister, asked whether entrusting the U.N. and its Security Council

with the task of tackling the plight of B-H did not mean that Europe was unable to solve its own problem?

He criticized Europe's passive role in dealing with regional and international issues, questioned whether the presence of NATO did not imply that in confronting threats and maintaining its security Europe still was dependent on the U.S.?

Rohani referred to the situation in the newly-independent republics of the former Soviet Union, and said peace and stability in those states was essential.

He said Iran looks upon Finland's future as part of Europe, and said that Helsinki can view Iran as a center for expansion of economic relations in the region."

The Finnish official said that Iran was regarded as a leading member of the international community and the region, and lauded the Islamic Republic's mediation efforts in the issues related to the Caucasus and Karabakh.

He called for expansion of cooperation between the two countries.

Nateq-Nuri Dismisses Western Pressure on Iran

LD0206143993 Tehran IRNA in English 1342 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 2, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said here today that the United States and the West exert pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran because the people are loyal to the path of late Imam and values of the Islamic revolution.

He described Western support for the sentenced apostate writer Salman Rushdie as an "unsuccesful attempt" in creating an excuse to pressure Iran to abandon its principles.

Speaking to the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) personnel, Nateq-Nuri said the late Imam taught the world that if a nation puts its trust in Allah, it can establish a powerful and independent government.

Regarding the second five-year development plan which begins next year, he said experts are studying the draft for the said plan at the parliament's research center.

Hajj Supervisor Sends Message to Khamene'i

LD0206195293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Excerpt] After the courageous act and the committed presence of the pilgrims to the House of God in carrying out the rite of Disavowal of Infidels in the land of Mina, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammadi-Reyshahri, supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims, sent a letter today to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, congratulating him and the steadfast nation of Iran on that great success.

In his letter, the Iranian pilgrims' supervisor, referring to the guidelines by the exalted leadership on the Iranian nation's right to stage the rite of Disavowal of Infidels, said:

Yesterday, as the pilgrims to the House of God from all over the world gathered in the land of Mina to carry out the rites of Mina and the ritual stoning of Satan, more than 100,000 Iranian and other pilgrims, acting on behalf of the tyrannized Muslims and all the oppressed of the world, took part in the rite of Disavowal of Infidels, and through the ritual stoning, struck with all their might at the citadels of the oppressors of the world of infidels with the thunder of their shouts of: Death to America and Death to Israel. They again demonstrated that they are still steadfastly holding to their pledge to the imam of the ummah—the reviver of the Ibrahimite hajj [Ayatollah Khomeyni]—and his legitimate successor [Ayatollah Khamene'i]. [passage omitted]

Velayati Meets Visiting Turkmenistan Officials

LD0206220393 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Akdak Dayev and Khalykberdy Atayev, Turkmenistan vice president for cultural affairs and foreign minister, respectively, who have come to Tehran to attend the ceremonies marking the anniversary of the demise of Imam Khomeyni—may God sanctify his soul—met Foreign Minister Velayati this afternoon. In the course of this meeting, the two sides discussed expansion of bilateral ties, regional issues, and other questions of mutual interest.

The vice president for cultural affairs of Turkmenistan said with reference to the trip of his country's high-ranking delegation to attend the anniversary of Imam Khomeyni's demise: This shows the importance that Turkmenistan attaches to its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the feelings of Turkmenistan's people toward Iran. He called for greater cooperation between Iran and Turkmenistan in exchanging radio and television programs and other possibilities.

Mr. Velayati stressed the need for cooperation among the region's countries and neighbors and called for the expansion of cultural cooperation.

Mr. Atayev praised the two countries' very good relations and expressed satisfaction with the progress made in the implementation of the bilateral agreements. He called for speeding up the implementation process of the agreements.

Moldovan Official Notes Readiness To Expand Ties

LD0106160393 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 1, (IRNA)—Moldovan Deputy Prime Minister Nicolae Andronati here today expressed his country's readiness for expansion of ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He told Heavy Industries Minister Mohammad Nezhad-Hoseynian in a meeting that after the collapse of communism and independence of Moldova from Soviet rule Iran can help his republic with its experience in various industrial and economic areas.

Nezhad-Hoseynian welcomed expansion of mutual ties and said Iran is ready to give assistance to Moldova in various fields.

"Iran is ready to despatch an expert delegation to Moldova for closer cooperation", he added.

Andronati heading a delegation arrived here Monday night. He visited the second exclusive exhibition of the Iranian heavy industries here later in the day.

Meets With Va'ezi

LD0206141393 Tehran IRNA in English 1352 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 2, IRNA—Moldovan First Deputy Premier Andronati today thanked Iran for officially recognizing his republic's independence and called for establishment of Tehran-Chisinau bilateral economic ties.

Andronati who made the remarks in a meeting with Iran's deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs, Mahmud Va'ezi, hoped for deepening of bilateral ties through exchange of various delegations, in view of Moldova's agro-industrial potentials.

Va'ezi outlined the Islamic Republic's policy regarding relations with the former Soviet republics.

He also welcomed the cooperation between the two countries and exchanged views with Andronati on various regional issues.

Culture Minister Returns From Russia, Azerbaijan

LD0306093093 Tehran IRNA in English 0852 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 3, IRNA—Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance 'Ali Larijani wound up his two-nation tour of Russia and Azerbaijan and returned home from Baku Wednesday [2 June] night.

Larijani told reporters upon arrival that agreements reached between Iran and the two countries would open a new chapter in mutual cultural ties.

The agreements are based on further rapproachement between Iran and the neighboring countries, he said, adding that Tehran aimed at establishing more solid cultural ties with Muslim and friendly states.

While in Moscow, Larijani reached agreements with Russian officials on tourism, exchange of published materials, fellowship and scholarship and cooperation in other educational fields.

The Iranian minister left here for Moscow last Thursday and arrived in Baku from the Russian capital on Monday.

In Baku, he agreed with Azerbaijani officials on the establishment of cultrual centers, setting up of book fairs, handicrafts exhibitions and Irano-Azerbaijan cultural weeks in both countries.

He termed as very important agreements reached in Azerbaijan due to the existence of common cultural and traditional backgrounds between the two nations.

On Tuesday, Larijani went to Gandzha [Kirovabad], the second largest city in Azerbaijan, where the tomb of the renowned 12th- century Persian poet Mohammad Elyas Yusef Nezami-Ganjavi is located and opened Iran's first book and handicraft exhibit in the city.

While in Baku, the Iranian minister held separate meetings with Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey, Prime Minister Panakh Guseynov and Culture Minister Byul-Byul Ogly Polad.

In meeting with Azeri president he referred to the exisitng traditional ties and historical, cultural and religious backgrounds between the two nations and called for further cooperation between the two neighbouring countries.

"The Islamic culture is very rich", Elchibey said, adding "Tehran and Azerbaijan should cooperate towards its promotion."

He described the visit by the Iranian delegation as a "positive step" towards upgrading ties between the two brotherly countries and expressed hope that the two nations would come closer than ever.

Larijani briefed Elchibey on Iran's stands towards Azerbaijan Republic and said that Iranian authorities had always supported Azerbaijan versus Armenia in international forums and repeatedly announced its readiness to help that country in all domains.

In his talks with Guseynov, Larijani referred to the Karabakh issue between Azerbaijan and Armenia and said that the Islamic Republic was exerting efforts towards rapid settlement of the dispute through peaceful means.

He also announced Iran's readiness to upgrade its cooperation with Azerbaijan in tourism and economic fields and suggested the establishment of cultural houses of Iran and Azerbaijan in the two countries.

The Azeri prime minister said there was no obstacle on the way of the expansion of ties with the Islamic Republic.

Meanwhile, Larijani and his Azeri counterpart Byul Ogly took part in a joint press conference Wednesday afternoon in which the two sides underlined the need to promote bilateral cultural ties.

Larijani noted that a cultural agreement reached between Tehran and Baku on Wednesday while bilateral economic relations were at a very good level.

He said that Iran had already condemned occupation of the Azeri city of Kelbadzhar by the Armenian Forces.

Ne'matzadeh, Slovak Minister Discuss Cooperation

LD2905111993 Tehran IRNA in English 1038 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 29, IRNA—Minister of Industries Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh discussed Iran-Slovakia industrial and economic cooperation in a meeting with visiting Slovak Minister of Economy Jaroslav Kubecka here Saturday [29 May].

Outlining Slovakia's economic activities in various fields, Kubecka said all government factories would be vested with private sector by the end of 1993. He noted that the objective of such economic reforms was to get access to open market.

Ne'matzadeh voiced Iran's readiness to promote all-out bilateral cooperation within the framework of a joint economic commission.

The two sides also agreed to form expert groups to study ways and means for the expansion of bilateral cooperation.

Kubecka arrived here Friday night at Ne'matzadeh's invitation.

Trade Relations Viewed With Bulgaria's Industry Minister

LD3005195093 Tehran IRNA in English 1733 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 30, IRNA—Volume of trade exchanges between Iran and Bulgaria reached dlrs 200 million last year, Bulgarian Minister of Industries Rumen Bikov said here at the 2nd exclusive heavy industry fair today.

Bikov said that Tehran-Sofia bilateral relations could be upgraded in view of the collapse of communism in Bulgaria.

Bikov who arrived here on Saturday [29 May] said he would encourage Bulgarian companies to invest in Iran.

Later today he met with his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Nezhad-Hoseynian and exchanged views on various issues regarding expansion of bilateral relations.

Iranian exports to Bulgaria include raw materials buses and a variety of other non-oil products, while Bulgaria supplies Iran with electrical parts, motors, pumps, cigarettes and cheese.

Hungarian Official Favors Further Economic Cooperation

LD3005135493 Tehran IRNA in English 1019 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Tabriz, East Azerbaijan Prov., May 30, IRNA—Deputy Commerce Minister of Hungary Pohankovics said here Saturday that his country can offer technical know-how to the Iranian industries and Ministry of Energy.

He said his country is also interested to cooperate with Iran in the area of rubber and tyre industries, pharmaceutics and energy generation.

The Hungarian official said in the Iranian calendar year 1371 (March 21, 1992-March 20, 1993) his country exported as much as dlrs 100 million worth of commodities to Iran. He said Iran's exports to Hungary during the same period was less than that, and added that he intended to investigate the ways and means for creating a balance in the mutual trade of the two countries.

He said the bulk of Iran's exports to Hungary during that period was non-oil products including pistachio, leather, and textile. The Hungarian official said that thus far as many as 1,300 Hungarian buses had been sold to Iran, and that this year Hungary is to sell an additional number of single cabin, as well as twin and triple-cabin city buses.

Meets Industries Minister

LD3005191693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Mr. Pohankovics, deputy industries minister of Hungary, met today Mr. Nezhad-Hoseynian, heavy industries minister, at the permanent premises of Tehran's international trade fair. The two officials discussed industrial relations between their countries. They also studied the possibilities of Iran exporting tractors to Hungary and cooperation between them in the field of the manufacture of spare parts for buses and saloon cars as well as the transfer of technology of buses made in Hungary to Iran.

Labor Minister Returns From Visit to Austria, Hungary

LD3005135293 Tehran IRNA in English 1007 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 30, IRNA—Labor Minister Hoseyn Kamali wound up his 6-day visit to Austria and Hungary and returned home Saturday [29 May] evening.

Kamali, officially invited by his Austrian and Hungarian counterparts, in his trip to Austria met with Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, and Labor Minister Josef Hesoun.

In Hungary the Iranian minister met with some high-ranking officials of that country including his counterpart, Ghyula Kiss, and Minister of International Economic Affairs and the head of Iran-Hungary Joint Economic Commission Bela Kadar.

Japan's Economic Cooperation Fund Offers Credits

LD0206184693 Tehran IRNA in English 1753 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 2, IRNA—A final agreement that entitles Iran to benefit from the facilities of Japan's Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) was signed by Iran's ambassador to Tokyo Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili and a representative of the OECF today. The credit by OECF will be utilized for building 'Karoun-4', a dam over the river Karoun in Iran's Khuzestan Province.

The project is to be undertaken by Iran water and power resources development company, an affiliate of the Energy Ministry of Iran.

Japan is to offer the total foreign currency needed for the project on the basis of three agreements which will total 154 billion yens.

The credits will be of the preferential type with an annual service charge of three per cent that will have to be paid back over a period of 25 years.

Paper Sees Talks With UAE as Model for Negotiations

LD2905104293 Tehran IRNA in English 1011 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 29, IRNA—Tehran-Abu Dhabi active relations are bases for consolidation of bilateral ties and a model for negotiations among Muslim countries to prevent interference of the West, a morning daily said here Saturday [29 May].

ABRAR in its editorial commented on Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's recent Persian Gulf tour and quoted his remarks made at the end of his Abu Dhabi visit that Iran and the UAE [United Arab Emirates] had agreed to continue bilateral talks with regard to mutual respect for each other's sovereignty, good-neighborly relations and constructive ties.

"The agreement by the two sides speaks of the adoption of a realistic policy towards bilateral issues. No doubt, Abu Dhabi admits that the Islamic Republic of Iran has had goodwill in its words and acts more than all those who claim to be seeking peace," said the paper.

Noting that the Persian Gulf war well proved that a regional issue could be turned into an international concern, it said that Iraqi occupation of Kuwait also proved Iran's righteousness in its claim, made emphatically in the 8-year-long Iraqi imposed war, that Baghdad sought expansionist policies.

"The islands issue, which is a question of absolute mutual interest, could have become fully repulsive in the absence of Iran's vigilance and self-restraint and if the UAE was not realistic."

The opening of the doors to negotiations under the new atmosphere of international rapprochement, would provide the Persian Gulf countries with the opportunity to take steps towards consolidation of their ties, said the article.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, as the largest, the most powerful and populated regional country, believes that consolidation of ties on the basis of common religious and cultural backgrounds is a move favoured by the almighty God and contrary to hegemonistic interests of the West," concluded ABRAR.

Khamene'i Addresses Ceremony To Mark Khomeyni Death

LD0206123193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Excerpts] On the eve of the fourth anniversary of the heart-rending death of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni—may he be admitted to God's paradise—foreign guests taking part in the imam's death anniversary ceremonies were received by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the custodian of the Order of Muslims. [passage omitted]

After saying that the main motive of the enemies of Islam is to fight Muslims, the esteemed leader said: The struggle of the arrogant machinery and bullying powers against Islamic countries and Muslims is basically a cultural fight. The enemies of Islam are trying to separate Muslims from Islamic wisdom and the rich culture of Islam. [passage omitted]

The custodian of the Order of Muslims said that the issue of Palestine is a clear and ever-topical issue in the world of Islam and humanity. Condemning the compromise talks with the Zionist regime, he said: On the issue of Palestine, the only correct talks would be those which would lead to Zionists evacuating Palestine. But if the outcome of the talks is that the usurper should remain in control of Palestine and that the oppression of the Palestinian nation should continue, it would be against Islam and divine decrees.

Why should the heads of Islamic countries dare to speak clearly of compromise with the usurper and occupier enemy? If they cannot and do not dare fight the enemy, they should stand aside and not compromise. Fighting against oppressors is the right of nations and governments, which will eventually lead to victory.

Referring to the regrettable situation facing Muslims in Bosnia, the leader of the Islamic revolution said: Those

who have put Muslims under the severest pressure in their own home are enemies of Muslims. Those who overtly support the aggressors—or the American regime which procrastinates and gives a free hand to the oppressors—are enemies of Muslims, and Muslims should fight them. [passage omitted]

President Tours Exhibit, Views Foreign Exchange Policy

LD2905124893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 May 93

[Excerpts] This morning President Hashemi-Rafsanjani inspected the second solo exhibition of the country's heavy industries. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] During his inspection, the president conversed with the craftsmen and officials involved in the country's heavy industries sector and reviewed the problems as well as capabilities present in that sector which has the potential for expansion. Today Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani also inspected parts of the exhibition set up by the country's fishery industries. [passage omitted]

At the end of his inspection of the two exhibitions, in an interview with the Voice and Vision's Central News Unit, the president considered as very encouraging the various examples displayed in the exhibitions showing the progress made by the heavy industries sector. [passage omitted]

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the implementation of the foreign exchange unification policy and to the elimination of problems resulting from availability of cheap foreign exchange in the industrial sector. He said: The new point is that the rial capabilities of the industrial, research, and design units must be enhanced. In view of the possibilities which had been created around the 70 rial [per U.S. dollar] rate of foreign exchange—and that is something which cannot continue with market-priced foreign exchange—the industrialists must increase their cash volume, and the banks too must be more active in this field. [passage omitted]

Candidate on Western 'Onslaught,' Official Corruption

LD0206122393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1015 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Address by presidential candidate Ahmad Tavakkoli; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. My greetings to all the dear compatriots who are listening to my voice. It would have been good if we, who are standing as presidential candidates, had enough time to speak to the entire nation in detail. But, due to the existing limitations—and of course one cannot take up radio broadcast time on this issue...[pauses] There is limited time and I prefer to start directly with the principal issues. I will try to cover everything during this 45-minute program.

Islamic Iran will achieve total independence and development if the government becomes efficient and cost-effective; if it has ministers who are wise, who care for the deprived, fight against blasphemy, and believe in the all-embracing strength of Islam; if all people are made aware of the issues and participate in decisionmaking; if the Western cultural onslaught is taken seriously; if offenses and lack of coordination among officials are seriously dealt with; if proper conditions are laid down for the promotion of capable individuals; if officials eschew luxuries and avarice; and, finally, if the speed of reforming the country's economic structure is made to match the people's means.

I believe it would be better if I focus my program on the issue of the Western cultural onslaught. The Islamic revolution has opened a new issue in the international scene and it has presented Islam as a culture independent of the domineering Western culture—an issue that has the support of the world's 1 billion Muslims. Now, in the world, the Western cultural domination is the leading bully. This is a culture which has confined the entire existence and being of mankind to materialism; and in a way it says: This material life is the only life there is; we live and we die in it.

Opposing this materialistic culture stands Islam as a divine religion, and the Islamic revolution as the proclaimer of that religion in the heartland of the Islamic world, that is to say Islamic Iran. It invites all people in the world to regard this world as a transitory and not a permanent abode. [passage omitted]

The Western onslaught on Islam and the Islamic revolution appears both in the normal way of life, which can be seen in extravagant consumerism and personal morals, based on arousing lust, and politically, where it engages in propaganda saying that the Islamic system, the supreme jurisconsult system, is incapable of managing the society, and that guidelines based on Islamic values and precepts cannot improve the people's material life.

In any of these fields the enemy is making and implementing comprehensive plans: corruption networks which try to divert our youth from the mainstream, healthy way of life by arousing their lust; extensive propaganda that puts forward to the world Western consumerism as an ideal way of life; and ideological and cultural corruption which is propagated inside the country and abroad which puts forward Western culture as an effective civilization for the salvation of mankind. They are all among enemy plans. Inside the country we are facing problems in our struggle against those attacks. In all three fields we have problems.

In my opinion, this invasion must be taken more seriously. When we see in some crowded parts of Tehran some individuals calling on youngsters to buy certain

tapes or profane pictures, we are surprised. Do law enforcement officers not hear those calls? Or do they hear but the judges do not listen? I do not think that uncovering and prosecuting corruption networks that, based on profiteering or political motives, or both, are destroying the foundations of family life in the country and our society, would be harder than to fight against political, counterrevolutionary networks. By relying on the people and the 20-million strong intelligence system, our security and intelligence machinery have been able to identify and crush antipopular and counterrevolutionary groups, so it is thought that dealing with those corrupt networks would be easier.

Regarding ideological issues, when in certain media of the country liberal theories are published on the economy and politics and, directly or indirectly, religious principles are attacked, and these attacks are not properly dealt with, it is surprising. When it is seen that some officials question, in words or deeds, the effectiveness of Islam and the Islamic revolution in running the society, and under the guise of being experts in social sciences they claim that liberal and capitalist theories are superior to Islamic precepts and values, and still remain in office, it is even more surprising. That is a sign of not taking the enemy's cultural onslaught seriously.

The countries of the world are like various districts of a city. Their issues are so interrelated that isolation becomes neither possible nor desirable. If the difference between correct cultural exchanges and these indications of cultural onslaught become well ingrained in the minds of the officials and well promulgated in the society, then not only will we benefit from the merits of international relations and the positive experiences of mankind, but we will also save ourselves from the evil influences of Western culture. If we only think about confronting vices, but not think about meeting people's inherent needs and the natural moral and psychological needs of our youth in terms of growth, information, and entertainment, then our fight will be unsuccessful. Every day technology moves in a direction that increases the influence of Western culture in each of our homes. If we see that today satellite pictures can only be received by special aerials, we would be wrong to assume that our problems can be solved through the installation of those aerials; no doubt with the trend of technological progress today, there will soon be televisions that will be able to receive satellite pictures with the aid of ordinary aerials, too, pictures that we cannot allow ourselves to watch because of our religious beliefs, and our national pride and historic background does not permit us to do such thing. No faithful and zealous Iranian family can allow its innocent children to watch the most unpalatable bestial scenes in the name of entertainment. What then should we do? Naturally, we must take steps in the field of production, toward the establishment of grounds for growth and toward the fulfillment of mankind's basic and natural needs. If our efforts fail to match our needs and beliefs in terms of promoting suitable films, entertainment, music and arts, then naturally it will be like starving hungry people by telling them that all imported food is poisonous. We can only prevent the dissemination of these poisons by producing suitable and sufficient food. That is the direction we should follow. Otherwise, soon, technological progress, with the aid of computer, will reach such a degree that each household will be able to view any picture it desires on its screens.

But, to launch such an extensive confrontation, proper tools are needed—and there are real bases for the enemy's success in terms of cultural onslaught. That is to say, that on the basis of our Islamic beliefs we know that the existing characteristics within a race cannot change unless the people of that race change their inner selves. If we wish to have an independent and lasting country, if we wish to preserve our Islamic culture, we must fortify the faith of the nation in that culture, we must protect our soul against the penetration of satan, while there are weaknesses in the society and the method of government reduces the nation's resistance against the enemy onslaught. I wish to refer to some aspects of government from that angle.

Naturally if the people are politically minded and sensitive to their surroundings, their reaction to a cultural onslaught would be different from that of a nation which is indifferent and whose sensitivity to the events in their country or the world is lessened. [passage omitted]

The same applies to social issues and social security. The people could combat Western cultural onslaught better when they feel that the law prevails in the country, that they are supported if their rights are violated, if they wish to prescribe virtues or proscribe vices. But if a person were to refer to an office, ministry, council, or the judiciary, to attain his rights or accomplish a task, and confronts law breaking, and is afraid of criticizing it because he is worried about his request being delayed, that would weaken his morale; it would make the officials involved arrogant and self-willed. If offenders in the government are not severely and decisively dealt with chaos and lawlessness will replace decisiveness. [passage omitted]

If the people cannot fight against a vice inside offices which are concerned with their affairs and operate from taxes they pay or their national wealth—for fear of difficulties—they will naturally not even think of resisting enemy cultural onslaughts. This is not a small issue. That is, encouraging arbitrary behavior in executive officials and weakening the morale of people who deal with them is, in fact, injecting weakness and frailty in the face of any invading culture. [passage omitted]

Another important issue that is close to cultural onslaught is the private and public lives of the country's officials. We say that we want to invite the people to spirituality and to build the world according to the real and natural needs of man and on the basis of divine revelation. [passage omitted] Those who claim to implement such a culture must show in their own lives that love for the material and luxury is bad. Providing

comforts for the nation is completely different from love of luxury by those who are responsible for this. Love of luxury is the opposite. If we talk to the people for 100 hours, write dozens of books on the necessity of refraining from waste, or create commissions and pass laws with the hope of creating a proper religious and national model for consumption, but then live our own lives attached to foreign luxury goods...[pauses] Two hundred words are worth less than an act. Then we cannot hope for the failure of the Western cultural onslaught in making people consumers. We cannot hope, as the esteemed leader pointed out, to be materialistic and yet have the people look at us as role models. Even if they do, they too will want to become materialistic. [passage omitted]

People are closer to their rulers than to their fathers and take the lead from them. If officials become lovers of luxury, it is apparent that material goods, not the spiritual, are of value in their eyes. [passage omitted] If people see such and such official or known cleric seeking opportunities, acting as if he was different from the rest of the people, or refusing to protest against the behavior of a group of flatterers who are separating him from the people, gradually they will lose their trust in that official or cleric. Once they lose their trust, they will listen to their enemies. That is why I said this is an important issue in the success of the enemy in its cultural onslaught. [passage omitted]

One argument is that the money one is securing, one is not securing by legal means since one's companies do not have the right to do such a thing. Another argument is that when one establishes such an administrative behavior, it is not commensurate with the level of the community's general consumption. It will be construed as luxury. And one is prohibited from doing such a thing. Or they throw parties with the nation's money. Whole barbecued sheep, standing on four legs with their mouths stuffed with vegetables, are offered at such parties. Travels abroad is in inappropriate forms; the selection of delegation members is not commensurate with political objectives. Sometimes, family members of some of the delegation members travel with them, and when they return, the amount of equipment and luggage that they bring back with them is truly regrettable. What do those who work at the airport think? What would the customs officials think? What does such behavior instill in the nation? Does it not instill the principle of worldliness, consumerism, and lust for material things?

Of course, I do not mean that such corruption is rife. We have officials in this government who truly live devoutly. I personally know a minister who has asked the president several times to allow him to step down. And his reason is: My salary is not sufficient, and I am in debt. Until some time ago, I used to feed myself through a company that I had since before the revolution—a small construction company—but now, I cannot even do that because the company is closed.

We also saw that in the Majles, they passed some regulations and stopped unnecessary travel. And this action by the Majles is truly praiseworthy. At the moment, a plan to investigate the travel by officials of executive organs is on the Majles agenda. Those are encouraging points that allow us to compensate for the vulnerable internal areas, so that we can truly implement appropriate plans for safeguarding our national and religious culture.

To be able to eliminate these shortcomings, we must appoint officials who avoid splendor and luxury in their personal lives and in their official capacity. [passage omitted] We must elect officials who avoid luxury and are an example to the deprived. They should believe truly that Islamic teaching can be applied in all aspects of running a society. One should not think that we should ignore the religion's instructions in order to bring economic prosperity. Should we ignore the religion's instructions, which can form our world and our afterlife, just to surrender to the liberal theories of the Western world?

When some officials believe that the examples of the capitalist economy are constructive and can be applied to save us, if we as an Islamic government fail to propose a plan for running the people's lives, that would be the beginning of becoming very vulnerable to the enemy's ambush. Why you may ask. Because such an official, instead of relying on the national manpower and the potential and capabilities of our belief and culture, would ask foreign experts to help. We must consider the employment of foreign experts, when the domestic experts kneel before them, as a serious danger.

When some delegations from the international monetary organizations are invited to come and offer a prescription to cure the ills of our country, they are provided with such information as the faults, for instance, in our taxation system. When this is done in expectation that they will offer a suitable taxation system, we must fear the outcome. We must fear the day when our domestic experts feel inferior. That will be the day when foreign powers succeed in altering our culture. On such a day, materialism will rule our lives. [passage omitted]

I now sum up again. The enemy cannot be blamed for its enmity. When it wants to bring us to our knees, it needs to plot and plan against us. It is up to us to know what we have to do domestically to deprive it from its success. We have to guard our original culture, and not allow our dear youth to be separated from their religion and culture and become instruments for the lust of our enemies. I mentioned several issues. I said we have to put the people more in touch with the situation of the country so as to make them more sensitive to their own fate. A politically active and conscious nation is always better prepared to meet any onslaught than a nation that has had indifference injected into it. By sharing with the people decisions that are related to them and the country, we can strengthen this presence.

I also said law and order must be enforced in the administration. Lawlessness and arbitrary acts by officials, even if they are apparently for service, will cause the deprivation of security in society and will force the people to become mean and low in their daily lives. Administrative corruption and preference of nondivine relations to regulations will become commonplace. When a nation cannot solve its domestic problems and when a part of this nation becomes despotic, it becomes vulnerable to the enemy's onslaught.

The other issue that has effective influence on the change of divine and religious sentiments to materialistic and consumer ones is the living conditions of the principal officials of the government, the ones who have to invite the people, through their deeds not words, to a divine life, as invited by the great prophets. Luxury must be eliminated from the private lives of officials. Waste must be eliminated from our organizations. There must be greater sensitivity toward the treasury of the Muslims. Otherwise people will learn the other methods. The poor will think that living in palaces is naturally correct. The rich will become even more arrogant and will think that they are truly correct; otherwise officials would not be following their ways and means. It is then that the poor will exchange religion for the affairs of the world, and this will become pervasisve.

Naturally, only those who are firmly committed to Islam, who believe in the full practicality of Islam and who do not see themselves dependent on the West should hold the main organs of government and stand against the onslaught of the enemy. Science is not the property of one society; it belongs to humanity at large. But in the human sciences, where Islam has a claim, the leaders should not see themselves dependent on the West. They should use the experiences of humanity within the context of their own religious beliefs and national needs.

Finally, if we want to weaken the onslaught of the enemy, we have to eliminate these problems and give the original hezbollah and basij forces an open hand. In an atmosphere of luxury, concession-seeking, and arbitrary rule, the original hezbollah and basij forces will not be in control. They will be gradually eliminated.

On facing the corrupt expressions of the enemy, such as the networks of corruption, greater firmness has to be shown. I think the establishment is capable, but I feel that firmness is not there. On the positive side and in order to meet the spiritual needs of the nation, there has to be proper planning. Isolation will not solve any problems. Indeed isolation is not possible. Through the full use of technology we have to find the correct answer—suitable to our religious and national culture—for the real needs of the people. In my future speech, I hope to present my views on the economy and foreign affairs to the dear compatriot so that you will be able to chose whomever you like to take responsibility of the country for the next four years. God's blessing upon you.

Pakistan

Sharif Views Indo-Israeli Ties With 'Grave Concern'

BK0206115593 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 2 Jun 93 pp 1, 8

[Text] Islamabad (PPI)—Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has categorically said time has come that India without wasting further time fulfills its international commitment by resolving the Kashmir issue in accordance with the UN resolutions.

In an interview with the editor of the SAUDI GAZETTE, Fahim Hamid Ali [the] prime minister while replying to a question said it was in the greater interest of not only India, Pakistan and Kashmir but the entire region that the Kashmir dispute must be solved according to the UN resolutions. "There has been no change in Pakistan's just stand on Kashmir issue," he added.

The prime minister further said Pakistan wanted implementation of the UN resolutions for solving the Kashmir issue in letter and spirit and added that India should also agree to it.

To another question the prime minister regretted that the Indian forces were committing grave violations of human rights in the held Kashmir which were an eye opener for the entire free world.

To yet another question, the prime minister said that freedom struggle in occupied Kashmir was indigenous and there was no external interference in the occupied territory at all. "The Kashmir issue is a key problem in maintaining cordial relations between India and Pakistan. Therefore, the [words indistinct] and unless this very issue is resolved," he maintained.

When asked about Pakistan's stand on Bosnia, Palestine, Kashmir and Afghanistan, the prime minister replied that our stand on these issues was based on principles and was well known to the world. "We are evolving a strategy in consultation with the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] countries for the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Islamic foreign ministers conference," he informed.

In reply to a question about India, Israel relationship, he said the fast growing relations between New Delhi and Tel Aviv was a matter of grave concern for us as these would be directed against any other country and hoped that Ummah would share this concern. He said "we are well aware of the role of Israeli occupation army in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. At the same time the entire world knows what the Indian occupation army is doing to suppress the indigenous freedom struggle in the occupied [words indistinct] matter of serious concern for Pakistan if the relations between India and Israel are further strengthened on these grounds, the prime minister added.

To another question he said his priorities on the internal and external issues were national reconciliation with political forces to save and strengthen the democratic system, to re-build confidence of the investors and businessmen in the economy which unfortunately was shattered by the action of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on April, 18, 1993 and continuation of the foreign policy so that Pakistan remained an important political affairs in the region, plays more positive role as an ICO member country and [words indistinct] and plays a more effective role at the international level.

When asked about restoration of National Assembly he said "we had a very strong case. We believed that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan dissolved the National Assembly and dismissed the mandated government in total violation of the constitution. Moreover, just four months before while addressing the joint sitting of the parliament, he had admired the policies and lauded the achievements of my government. In the light of these facts I had the strong hope of winning the case in the Supreme Court of Pakistan and after the court judgement my faith in the judiciary has been enhanced and I believe that this judgement has discouraged those forces which did play," he maintained.

Another question, he said president's action of April 18, and the caretaker government caused great damage to the credibility of democratic system. It damaged Pakistan's image and prestige at the international level, shattered the confidence of the investors and businessman, and pushed all sectors of the economy to almost a standstill.

About 8th Amendment, Nawaz Sharif said it is the most controversial amendment and has practically changed the parliamentary system into a presidential system. "Moreover, it has served as an instrument to weaken the democratic system, parliamentary institution and the economic development. There is consensus among the nation on its annulment for striking an objective balance in it," he added.

"As regards my relations with president, let me say that the constitution is the best available guide in this regard, coupled with democratic and moral traditions and values," he concluded.

Army Seeks To Buy Black Hawk Helicopters From Turkey

BK0206120393 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 2 Jun 93 p 12

[Text] Karachi—The Black Hawk helicopters which the Pakistan Army is seeking to purchase from Turkey are will be co-produced in the Muslim state. [sentence as published]

Originally, Turkey had planned to buy 200 UH-60L Black Hawks for its army at around 1.5 billion dollars. But this order was reduced to 75 helicopters in September 1992 after the coalition government emerging from the October 1991 parliamentary elections re-examined the deal.

But Sikorsky wanted to renegotiate the contract. For this, it offered to speed up the deliveries of the helicopters for the Turkish Army if it bought additional Black Hawks from the company. The Turkish Government agreed.

In accordance with its directives, the Defence Industries Secretariat ordered 95 Black Hawks, 45 of them directly from Sikorsky in December 1992. The remaining 50 were to be co-produced in the United States and Turkey. These 95 Black Hawks will cost Turkey 1.1 billion dollars in all.

But it seems that the Turkish Government has again changed its mind because of financial (?considerations) [words indistinct] the 50 helicopters that it would co-produce. It then offered to sell some of them to Pakistan.

It is not clear if the Clinton administration would allow Sikorsky—or for that matter Turkey—to sell Black Hawks to Pakistan. And even if it does, there is no guarantee that spare parts would be provided in case the US declares Pakistan a [incomplete sentence as published]

Because Sikorsky had originally planned to sell 200 helicopters to the Turkish Army, the reduced order did not augur well for the company. It has now become costlier for the company to set up the assembly line for the co-production of Black Hawks in Turkey. This is why Sikorsky would also be interested in selling Black Hawks to Pakistan.

Before selecting the Black Hawks, the Turkish Army closely studied and rejected Aerospatiale AS532 Cougar, Agusta AB 412 HP, MBB BK 117 and Bell 412SP.

Also, the first batch of the aircraft has been delivered while the rest will be handed over to the Turkish Army by September 1993.

The co-production of Turkish Black Hawks is expected to start in July 1994, possibly at Murted's Ankara plant. The local content, which mostly comprises structural parts, will start at 18 per cent and will rise to 50 per cent over a period of time. The power plant, systems and avionics will come from the United States.

These are not the first Black Hawks [words indistinct] Turkey bought six S-70A-17s. In another deal worth 69 million dollars, Sikorsky sold four utility and two VIP S-70A helicopters to the Turkish National Police in 1991.